

OIC criticises G-7 over Bosnia

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), an umbrella group for the world's Muslims, said Saturday that the Group of Seven (G-7) summit should have been more forceful on the subject of Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The decisions taken by the leaders of the seven great industrial nations on Bosnia contained some positive elements," said a statement issued by OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid. He added, however, "We hoped that the leaders would have taken a stronger attitude in dealing with the problem." Mr. Gabid said U.N. Security Council resolutions on the former Yugoslav republic must be implemented to prevent further bloodshed. "Any hesitation or delay in this respect means that the conflict might spread to other areas in the Balkans and, consequently, (become) a direct threat to the world peace," he warned. He called for "international pressure" on the Serbs for a ceasefire. The OIC has persistently called for lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia. It also has sought U.N. military intervention.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي

Volume 17 Number 5353

AMMAN SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1993 MUHARRAM 21, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Mubarak inquires after King's health

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak inquiring about his health condition. The King, currently on a private visit to London with Her Majesty Queen Noor, thanked Mr. Mubarak and wished him good health and happiness. King Hussein was Thursday discharged from hospital after being treated for an irregular heartbeat problem.

King plans to visit China in September

AMMAN (R) — King Hussein plans to visit China in September for talks on Middle East peace and bilateral ties, official sources said Saturday. His visit to Beijing will be his second official trip to China — one of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members — since 1983.

Israel arrests 3 in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (AFP) — An Israeli army undercover unit arrested three wanted Palestinians including a military chief after a shootout overnight, Palestinian sources said Saturday. Troops surrounded the house where Majed Al Helu, aged 21, and two other men were hiding to Jabalya refugee camp on the Gaza Strip. After a brief exchange of gunfire in which the house owner was wounded, Mr. Helu, Hassan Al Amudi, 21, and Emad Sheikh Khalil, 20, surrendered and walked out with their hands up. Mr. Helu was Gaza City head of the Hawks, the combat unit of Fateh.

U.S. helps Kurds to have phone link

ERBIL (AFP) — Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq will be linked to the international communications network as part of an agreement signed Friday with a Los Angeles firm, a company spokesman said. The deal between the Los Angeles-based Telemobile Inc. and the Kurdish "government" in northern Iraq, "The State Department has offered to contact both the United Nations sanctions committee and the Turkish authorities to get the necessary permission" to go ahead with the project, Mr. Early said.

Qatar favours strong Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabr Al Thani said Saturday he favoured a strong Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. "The Qatari foreign minister said the presence of a strong and powerful Iran is in the interest of the whole region," IRNA quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying in Tehran. He flew to Iran Saturday at the start of a regional tour during which he will discuss bilateral ties and easing regional tensions. IRNA said Sheikh Hamad stressed that Gulf states were keen on improving ties with Iran, adding, "I hope that any likely misunderstanding between some Arab countries and Iran will be removed."

18 held in Cairo bombings

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian security forces arrested 18 Islamic militants suspected of involvement in Cairo bombings and seized 35 weapons Saturday north of the Egyptian capital, police said. The operation took place in the Nile Delta province of Minufiya, where the militants sought refuge after five unclaimed bomb attacks in Cairo since February that killed 20 people, including two foreign tourists, and wounded 80, police said. Egypt's radical Gamaa Islamiyah, which has led a campaign to overthrow the secular government, has denied any responsibility in the attacks. The authorities have to date failed to identify those behind the bombings. Police said the suspects were transferred to Cairo to be interrogated by the state security services.

Royal Decree sets in motion campaign '93

Dissolution of Parliament, changes to Election Law expected soon

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The announcement of a Royal Decree that "elections will be held according to the law," has set in motion the beginning of the 1993 campaign for the 12th Parliament.

The Royal Decree, which was announced late Friday night, is the first in a series of steps that will involve dissolving the current Parliament, setting a date by the government for the elections and, as has been largely expected, issuing a new temporary law for those elections.

The government is about to announce Nov. 8, which is a Friday, as the new date for the first multi-party elections since 1956, according to informed sources. The official announcements on the date and the dissolution of the current Parliament will come within a week, after Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has briefed his Cabinet on proposed amendments to the Election Law, the sources said.

According to the Jordanian law, the government will have to finalise all constitutional and legal steps leading to the elections before July 23, exactly four months before the end of the

current Parliament's mandate on Nov. 23.

Dissolving Parliament before setting a date for the elections or announcing changes to the current Election Law would preempt a move by deputies to call for an extraordinary session of the House to discuss the changes, which many of them oppose.

This opposition stems mainly from the fact that many of the 80 members at the Lower House were voted in largely due to the bloc-voting system of the current Election Law, but also because they think it is wrong to issue a new, albeit temporary, law without consulting a sitting Parliament.

"But the government cannot tie its hands down by allowing Parliament to use the expected amendments to the law to create electioneering slogans," a source close to the government said. "It is my understanding that a Royal Decree dissolving Parliament will be issued soon so that the government can enact the new temporary law," the source added.

Assurances that the legislation would be changed only after thorough consultations with representatives of all political groups in the country have fallen short of the deputies' demands that any

amendments to the law be passed by Parliament.

Sixty-two deputies last month issued a statement in which they said they will call for an extraordinary session of the House in the event of the government announcing its intention to amend the Election Law. The Constitution stipulates that an extraordinary session be held at the request of 41 deputies or more.

Well-informed sources said that proposed amendments to the Election Law would not touch current district distribution but would require voters to cast only one ballot for their candidates. This is the one-person-one-vote system that His Majesty King Hussein first mentioned in his letter of acceptance of former Prime Minister Mudar Badran's resignation in 1991. Another amendment to the law would lower the voting age from 19 to 18.

But even supporters of the one-person-one-vote system argue that the formula would not work if the current voting districts are not redrawn.

"The formula would not be suitable" if the current voting

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Ross upbeat after Cairo talks

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Egyptian and American officials huddled for nearly five hours Saturday over new ideas that the United States has offered to resolve obstacles to progress in Middle East peace talks.

Both Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Dennis Ross, head of a visiting U.S. State Department delegation, expressed satisfaction with the meeting and indicated efforts to push forward the peace process were at a crucial stage. "We are hopeful that over time we are going to succeed in our common objectives of making peace," Mr. Ross said after the talks.

He told reporters he had "detailed, intensive and useful discussions" during the talks with Mr. Musa, and Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser.

"The Egyptians and Americans are working very well together. We are truly full partners in this effort ... we are making every effort to make progress, to find ways to narrow the gap between

the parties and I am very satisfied with the discussions that we have had today," Mr. Ross said.

He would not say if his consultations had produced a breakthrough in the deadlocked talks. "We are at a stage in the process where these kind of discussions and other discussions that we're involved in with the other parties are going to be most productive if we keep the details private at this stage," Mr. Ross said and his team flew to Cairo from Israel, where they held talks with Israelis and Palestinians on Thursday and Friday.

More talks were scheduled in Israel with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the Palestinians. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher repeated on Friday that Washington was ready to be an active broker in the 21-month-old talks, but only if the deadlocked parties made concessions "to show they care enough to justify our time and energy and commitment" (see page 10).

Mr. Ross, State Department coordinator for the Middle East, met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres and a Palestinian delegation. He was to return to Israel late Saturday for more talks with Mr. Rabin and the Palestinians.

Mr. Ross refused to elaborate on the nature of the discussions, stressing however that Egypt and the United States were working together "to narrow the gaps between the parties" engaged in the peace talks.

Mr. Ross is also to visit Damascus and Amman. It is not known if he will visit Lebanon, which is also a party to the peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Musa have held talks in the past week with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Mr. Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials to break a deadlock over a U.S. draft on Palestinian self-government in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The draft aims to establish a framework for negotiations on a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule to be followed by talks on the final status of the territories. But the Palesti-

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Husseini rejects Peres' offer to specify 'self-rule' land without Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — The leader of the Palestinian peace talks delegation Saturday rejected an Israeli offer to specify territory the Jewish state was willing to concede in exchange for keeping Jerusalem off the agenda.

Faisal Husseini told reporters here that "Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. Jerusalem is the capital of the future Palestinian state, and any dialogue that will attempt to exclude Jerusalem is totally rejected."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Friday suggested Israel might reverse longstanding policy and negotiate clearly delineated areas for autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In exchange, he said, the Palestinians would have to agree not to discuss Jerusalem. Previously, Israel was willing only to discuss limited self-rule that would give Palestinians control over activities such as education and local government but would not include geographic boundaries.

Mr. Husseini ridiculed Mr.

Peres' insistence that Israel and Palestinians were closer to agreement than most people thought. "As long as Israel does not change its logic and deals with us on the basis of Resolution 242, this process cannot continue," he said.

"Jerusalem is holy for us as much as it is for Peres and he cannot have monopoly over it," he said.

Asked about remarks by Avraham Kahila, deputy Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, that Jews now outnumbered Palestinians in East Jerusalem, Mr. Husseini said: "The annexation of Jerusalem is illegal and so are all settlement measures in Jerusalem. Therefore, all what is based on something illegal is illegal."

Mr. Husseini also said that Washington was considering altering U.S. compromise proposal on Palestinian autonomy.

The U.S. State Department's Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross told Palestinian negotiators in Jerusalem on Friday that the United States "were ready to examine new formulations about the geographic depth (of Palestinian autonomy) and Jerusalem."

Mr. Husseini said.

"In any case they should think about it if they want to achieve results," Mr. Husseini said.

The Palestinians will reject any new U.S. proposals if they fail to conform to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates a land-for-peace exchange, he added.

Palestinian sources said that Mr. Husseini could meet Mr. Ross on Monday or Tuesday in Jerusalem.

The U.S. compromise proposal for breaking the deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian talks would allow Jerusalem to be discussed after the period of interim Palestinian self-government. Israel has rejected such a call.

Mr. Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace negotiations, held talks Friday and Saturday with Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian leaders to try to resolve differences that have resulted in 10 futile rounds of negotiations (see separate story).

In Syria, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, spoke to reporters

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior officials Saturday await the arrival of a plane carrying the victims of a bus accident in Yemen.



Yemen. (Right) Soldiers bring down the coffins of the nine Jordanians who died in the crash (Petra photos)

Victims of Yemen accident brought home

Senior diplomat, 8 dependents killed in bus crash

AMMAN (J.T.) — The bodies of nine Jordanians — a senior diplomat, his wife and four children and four dependents of other embassy staff — who were killed in a bus crash in Yemen were flown home Saturday.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, and senior officials received the cream-coloured coffins, draped in Jordanian flags, were brought here by a military aircraft. Nine other Jordanians injured in the accident Friday while on a private bus tour also arrived on the plane.

The bus overturned in rugged terrain on the Sanaa-Hajjah highway, 115 kilometres from Sanaa, foreign minister official Jamal Abbadi told the Jordan Times.

Crown Prince Hassan accompanied by top government and palace officials, co-died, more than 300 men at the airport — all relatives of the victims who come from leading tribes and families. Most of the injured, some

King condoles families of victims

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Saturday sent a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, expressing deep sorrow over the deaths and injuries of Jordanians in the accident in Yemen and asking the Regent to convey his condolences to the families of the victims.

"I received with great sorrow the news about the accident which caused the death of a number of our embassy staff in Sanaa and the injury of others," said the message of the King, who is on a private visit to Britain.

The King also expressed satisfaction with the measures taken to offer treatment and care for those wounded in the accident.

walking on crutches or lying on stretchers, were immediately taken by helicopter to the Hussein Medical Centre.

The dead diplomat, Othman Al Abbadi, served as the embassy's first secretary. Besides his family, the wife and daughter of the medical services attaché and the son and daughter of its military attaché, also died in the accident.

An Iraqi victim of the crash, Suleiman Daoud, a doctor, also returned on the plane en route for burial in Baghdad. His wife and four children

were also taken to hospital for treatment.

The bus was carrying the diplomats and their families on an excursion when it overturned, killing the nine along with the Yemeni driver, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Those killed in the accident were: Othman Al Abbadi, counsellor at the embassy in Sanaa, his wife Hikmat Quteishat, his children Firas, Ahmad, Samar, and Sahar, Zein Majali, the wife of health attaché Suleiman Al Fayez, and Fayez's daughter Lujain,

and Sakhr, son of military attaché Fayez Al Zaben.

The injured included Dr. Suleiman Al Fayez, his son Sanad, Lieutenant-Colonel Fayyad Al Zaben and his wife Sabah Izzat Al Hadid and their children Suheib, Seif and Rawan, Mahmoud Abbadi and Yaqoub, Abbadi, children of Othman Al Abbadi, and security officer Tayseer Al Zoubi.

The deceased will be buried in Amman Sunday. Along with the Regent to receive the injured and the bodies were His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mobammad, Royal Court Chief, Khaled Karaki and other officials and relatives of the deceased and injured.

Petra said the Regent had directed the health authorities to offer the injured all the care they require in Jordan and abroad if need be.

The Regent Saturday evening received a telephone call from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh who offered his condolences to the Regent over the death of the Jordanian diplomat and dependents.

Rockets fired at Israeli positions

TYRE (AP) — Resistance fighters fired five Katyusha rockets Saturday at Israeli positions in South Lebanon on the third straight day of hostilities.

There was some material damage, but no casualties, security officials in Lebanon said.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and eight wounded in shelling Friday claimed by the Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah.

A day earlier, two Israeli troops died and three were wounded in an ambush claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) headed by Ahmad Jibril.

Israel Friday sent helicopter gunships to bomb a PFLP-GC base in retaliation and has threatened further action if the violence does not stop.

Saturday's Katyusha attack was claimed in a communique issued in Beirut by a Palestinian fundamentalist group that calls itself Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis.

Security officials said that one of the Katyushas hit an Israeli army radio station near the coastal area of Ras Al Biyad, about eight kilometres north of the Israeli frontier. It caused only minor damage, the officials said.

Another rocket struck a water tank belonging to the Fijian battalion of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, a U.N. officer said.

The Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis said it had fired two salvoes of Grad rockets at a military target near Nahariyya in northern Israel, "destroying it and causing casualties."

The group, which is led by Amman-based Sheikh Assad Bayoun Al Tamimi, has claimed several operations against Israelis in the past, including two bus attacks that left 16 people dead.

A communique issued here

U.N. team confident of Iraq task

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD — A team of United Nations arms inspectors arrived in Baghdad Saturday and its leader said he was confident the Iraqis would allow it to seal missile test sites.

"I have every confidence that they will allow us to install the seals," Mark Silver, an American, told reporters.

Mr. Silver, a veteran of eight U.N. missions in Iraq, said the sealing of the stands Iraq used to test its missiles was an interim measure.

The U.N. ordered the sites closed after Iraq rejected a Security Council demand to have monitoring cameras installed.

Asked why he thought Iraq would accept the missile sealing, Mr. Silver said: "I have no reason not to believe at this point."

Mr. Silver, 41, was with Nikita Smidovich, a senior U.N. inspector who failed after a month of waiting to persuade Iraq to have the monitoring cameras set up at

the rocket sites.

Mr. Silver said his optimism was not shared by the U.N. Special Commission which is overseeing the scrapping of Iraq's weapons.

"This is a personal point," he said.

Mr. Silver said he planned on going Sunday to the firing ranges to seal equipment there and prevent Iraq from using them.

But first he would hold talks with the Iraqi authorities. If Iraq blocked his mission the three experts would inform the U.N. commission charged with dismantling Iraq and leave Baghdad immediately, Mr. Silver said.

The task of sealing the sites could be accomplished in one day and if all goes well the team could leave Iraq on Monday, added the U.N. expert.

He also reported that the Iraqi authorities had dismantled "fixtures that are used to attach the engines" of missiles at the test sites.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren

Christopher warned Friday that the United States was ready to use force if Iraq refused to allow the inspectors to complete their task.

Baghdad said it would only allow surveillance cameras to be installed if it received concessions in return. It is seeking an end to U.N. sanctions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait three years ago, arguing it has complied with Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Christopher warned that "the use of force is entirely possible" if Iraq blocked the latest mission, emphasising that the U.N. Security Council would have to authorise any attack.

Iraqi Information Minister Famed Yusuf Hummadi said Saturday that Mr. Christopher and President Bill Clinton had been "ill informed" about the camera row.

Baghdad has not refused to allow their installation, but asked for a postponement because the

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Nezzar replaced as Algeria defence chief

Combined agency dispatches

ALGIERS — Khaled Nezzar, reputed strongman of the Algerian government, has been replaced as defence minister, a communique from the presidency said Saturday.

Former General Lamine Zeroual was named defence minister but the communique said Gen. Nezzar remains a member of the High State Council, Algeria's ruling council which is fighting a wave of Islamic militant violence.

Gen. Mohammad Lamari, head of Algeria's anti-terrorist units, was appointed army chief-of-staff, replacing Gen. Abdul Malek Guenaizia, who was "given other duties." No new anti-terrorist chief was named.

Generals Nezzar, Lamari and Guenaizia all played an active role in the departure from office of former President Chadli Benjedid in January 1992 following

the landslide victory of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in legislative elections Dec. 26, 1991.

The military-backed council has run Algeria since January when the second round vote the FIS was poised to win was cancelled. The FIS was later banned.

Gen. Zeroual had quit as assistant army chief-of-staff in 1990 because of disagreements with Mr. Benjedid, becoming ambassador to Romania.

Algerian newspapers said the new appointments were part of the High State Council's drive for "renewal," which was also highlighted in a speech by head of state Ali Kafi marking independence day July 5.

The independent newspaper Al Watan and Le Matin reported the changes in their Saturday editions, saying others were in the works but providing no details.

There was speculation the shakeup may presage a new



Lamine Zeroual

approach to the problem posed by fundamentalists who have taken up arms against the leadership. The crackdown carried out under the state of emergency has failed to quell extremist attacks, which have recently increased and broadened to include intellectuals and figures connected to the regime among targets.

Gen. Nezzar, who suffers from serious vascular problems, was the object of a failed assassination attempt last February.

Middle East News

Tighter sanctions on Libya unlikely

CAIRO (Agencies) — Western and Arab diplomats said Saturday tighter U.N. sanctions on Libya were unlikely soon despite recent consultations on the issue between the United States and its allies.

"Even if (the Americans) got Britain and France to agree, there's still Russia and China among the permanent (Security Council) members and then all the others. It's still very unlikely," said one Western diplomat. Limited sanctions were imposed in April 1992 over Libya's refusal to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain two Libyans suspected in the bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

Libya also refused to cooperate with French investigations into another airliner bombing over Niger in 1989.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters at the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised nations he had spoken to G-7 foreign ministers about banning the sale of oil equipment and freezing some Libyan assets when U.N. sanctions came up for renewal on Aug. 15.

But diplomats said many developing countries, led by a vocal Arab and Muslim lobby, would object to what they saw as another instance of Western double standards in international affairs, and other states were not prepared to push the issue.

Many Arab and Muslim states are already outraged at what they view as Western indifference to the killing of Bosnian Muslims by Serbs, compared with the ready use of force to make an Arab state like Iraq comply with U.N. sanctions.

"I can only say there is a distinct impression of double dealing by the West," said an Arab diplomat.

The diplomats said the wording of the G-7's political communique was significant because it bracketed Libya in the same category as Iraq for violating international law.

"We are determined to keep up the pressure on Iraq and Libya to implement all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions to full," the statement said.

But the diplomats said strong U.S. statements on Libya were aimed mainly at persuading the American public that the Clinton administration is tough on perceived international terrorism at a time when the issue is hot at home.

"They'll be able to say 'at least we tried.' I think that's what they're aiming for," said one diplomat.

Arab and developing country support for Libya has actually hardened since the sanctions were last reviewed in April.

A summit of African leaders in Cairo last month criticised the suffering caused to the Libyan people by the sanctions and praised Tripoli's offer to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing for trial in a neutral country.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday the United States wants tougher sanctions against Libya.

"I talked to my colleagues about stronger sanctions against Libya for the Pan Am 103 raid," said Mr. Christopher in a U.S. television interview from Tokyo. Under U.N. Resolution 748, Tripoli has until Aug. 15 to extradite the two suspects in the bombing to either Britain or the United States.

"There can be more oil-related sanctions. There could be freezes on their assets," said Mr. Christopher.

The secretary of state declined to say how U.S. allies had responded, but said he was optimistic that there would be "something new in place" when the deadline expired.

Mr. Christopher said that he had met with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, with additional discussions expected in Paris.

Some European nations, particularly France, Germany and Italy, have commercial interests in Libya. U.S. oil companies are also present in Libya in the form of European subsidiaries.

With existing penalties set to expire on August 1, "that's the kind of deadline which means they will either be extended or hopefully they will be increased or toughened," Mr. Christopher said.

Possibilities include an embargo of various oil equipment, like production or refining equipment, and also asset freezes might be effective, he said.

Mr. Christopher expressed hope that Libya would finally comply with the U.S. and U.N. demands.

"They send out a lot of emissaries offering various olive branches but none of them seem to develop in a way that would give any assurance that they want to comply," he said.

Clinton, Mitterrand meet
President Clinton raised the issue of expanding sanctions against Libya during his bilateral talks in Tokyo with French President Mitterrand, presidential counselor David Gergen said Saturday.

"There has been some discussion... about the possibility of moving on the oil, or putting some greater financial pressures on the Libyans," Mr. Gergen told reporters. He said he would anticipate further conversations with France on this issue.

Security beefed up in Cairo after hangings

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police have deployed reinforcements around mosques and embassies in the Egyptian capital after the hanging of seven Islamic militants sparked threats of reprisal from the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group).

The group, which has spearheaded a campaign to overthrow the secular government, warned Thursday that President Hosni Mubarak was "digging his own grave" by executing the militants.

Mr. Mubarak was "providing good reason to kill him" by going ahead with the executions, Al Gamaa's communiqué said. His assassination would be a "legal act of justice and vengeance."

Security was beefed up around mosques and embassies in Cairo, notably the U.S. mission, where several police cars were parked.

Guards checked the bags of cinema and theatre-goers and similar precautions were taken at shopping centres across Cairo. Cars in parking lots of five-star hotels were searched.

The militants hanged Thursday were found guilty of plotting to overthrow the government and of an attack on a tour bus in the southern region of Qena in which six Germans and two Egyptians were wounded.

The Egyptian press applauded the hangings, saying they underlined the government's determination to crush a Muslim fundamentalist campaign that has killed around 170 people and crippled the vital tourism industry.

The executions, "carried out without prior notice between 7 and 10 a.m. appeared to mark the largest group of persons executed for politically related crimes in Egypt's modern history."

The press also praised the government's move to halt its violent campaign to overthrow President Mubarak's secular government and install an Islamic state.

Two other militants were hanged last month, and 13 others sentenced to death at recent trials are likely to have their sentences carried out over the next two months, according to a report last week in the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper. Scores of other militants are on trial for capital offences.

Islamic Group supporters, however, said they regard the hangings as evidence of the government's weakness, and they warned that the executions will intensify their fight.



EXTREMIST VIOLENCE: Relatives keep watch Friday over the bodies of an agricultural engineer and his wife, both former communist activists, who were gunned down in front of their three young children in the south of Algiers by suspected Islamic militants (AFP photo).

Brotherhood opposes Mubarak reelection

CAIRO (Agencies) — The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood Saturday opposed a third presidential term for Hosni Mubarak, blaming him for an economic slump and growing Western influence on Egypt.

The Brotherhood is the first opposition group to come out openly against the president. While it is unlikely to affect Mr. Mubarak's expected reelection unopposed, it reflects public discontent over the economy.

Though officially banned, the Brotherhood still is allowed to operate. Like other Muslim groups, it demands implementation of Islamic law, but it has rejected the violent campaign by Islamic extremists to topple Mr. Mubarak's secular government.

In a written statement, Brotherhood leader Hamed Abul Nasr listed a string of problems that he claimed Mr. Mubarak failed to solve during 12 years in power — unemployment, high prices, growing Western influence, instability.

Mr. Abul Nasr did not specify, but the instability is due to the extremist campaign that has left more than 180 people dead in the past 18 months. The campaign also has badly damaged the economy by crippling tourism.

Mr. Mubarak, who came to power in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat, has refused to say he will accept a third term but is widely expected to do so.

He blames many of his problems on the extremist campaign, which he says is supported by Iran and Sudan. He also argues, in reply to fundamentalists, that 90 per cent of Egyptian law already is based on the Sharia

Islamic code.

The National Assembly, or parliament, is expected to convene July 21 to nominate Mr. Mubarak. Since opposition parties boycotted the last general elections, his National Democratic Party holds a majority in the 454-member assembly.

More than two-thirds of legislators already have signed a letter nominating Mr. Mubarak for a third term. That likely assures his reelection by referendum since no opponent can get the needed one-third parliamentary support to be nominated. He is expected to be sworn in for a third term before October.

Mr. Abul Nasr, whose group runs in parliamentary elections under the banner of the Socialist Labour Party, said the Brotherhood feels the electoral system is stacked in Mr. Mubarak's favour.

"We oppose the nomination of Mubarak for the presidency a third time, especially since the nomination comes from an assembly which we consider unconstitutional and not properly representative of the nation," Mr. Abul Nasr said in his statement.

He said that in 1987, when more than two-thirds also nominated Mr. Mubarak for reelection, opposition parties demanded the president implement Islamic law, change the electoral system and remove all restrictions on opposition political parties.

Mr. Abul Nasr said none of their demands had been met. Cairo newspaper Al-Sabeel quoted Parliament Speaker Fathi Sorour as saying 441 out of 454 deputies signed a petition to put Mr. Mubarak's name forward in the parliamentary debate.

Rocket attacks kill 2, injure 25 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Rocket volleys slammed into residential areas of the Afghan capital, killing two people and injuring 25, state-run Kabul Radio said.

At least 44 rockets fired from the southwest of the city, which is controlled by the minority Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat party, hit Kabul overnight and Friday, the radio monitored in Islamabad said.

Several houses and a mosque were destroyed, it said.

Missile ransom sought
The Afghan abductor of two Chinese hydrologists has demanded three Stinger missiles and payment of more than \$220,000 for their release, officials sources said in Pakistani town of Quetta Saturday.

He has also demanded the release of his brother jailed in Pakistan for gun running and the return of other weapons seized by Pakistani troops in a raid on his camp earlier this year, they said.

The Chinese, identified as Weng Chin Ping and Zheng Hong Pao, were abducted from the Bostan district, in southwestern Baluchistan province, on June 21.

Mullah Abdul Salam, nicknamed "Mulla Rocketti," who belongs to the Hezb-e-Islami faction of Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, conveyed his demands to an Afghan jirga (mediator team) which met him this week in the Afghan province of Zabul.

The abduction was to retaliate for Islamabad's alleged failure to pay the cost of his U.S.-supplied Stinger missiles as promised and their subsequent raid on his camp at Badini near here to recover the weapons.

Mullah Rocketti claimed that the Pakistani militia troops had also seized six million rupees (\$222,000) from his house, besides some light arms in their raid.

The shoulder-carried anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, costing \$20,000, were supplied to the Afghan guerrillas by the United States for use against the former pro-Soviet regime deposed after 14 years of war in April 1992.

Reports from Washington said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was now buying back the Stingers they fell in the hands of anti-American countries, particularly Iran.

Mr. Salam is also holding hostage seven Pakistani government employees since last winter, saying he would also free them once his demands were met, the sources said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemeni and Bahraini labour ministers die

BAHRAIN (AP) — The labour ministers of Bahrain and Yemen died within a few hours of each other on opposite sides of the Arabian Peninsula, officials and news reports said Saturday. Sheikh Khalifa Ben Mohammad Al Khalifa, the Bahraini minister and a cousin of the emirate's ruler, died early Saturday, the official Gulf News Agency said. The cause of death was not disclosed. Sources close to the family, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sheikh Khalifa died at his home in Manama. Sheikh Khalifa, who was 46, had been minister of labour since 1980. Yemen's labour minister, Mohammad Ali Haithem, died of heart failure Friday night at a hospital in Sanaa, officials in the Yemeni capital said. In 1969, Mr. Haithem was prime minister of South Yemen, which merged with North Yemen in 1990. He fled South Yemen when Marxists tightened their control. He was granted political asylum in Egypt, where he survived two assassination attempts by gunmen. Mr. Haithem, 53, had served only six weeks as Yemen's minister of labour, social affairs and insurance.

PLO students divided over Israeli contacts

TUNIS (R) — Divisions arose Saturday within the General Union of Palestinian Students over a meeting last month in Sweden between its leaders and the youth group of the Israeli Labour Party. Six of the 10 members of the Palestinian union's executive committee said in a statement they were opposed to the meeting. "It is a normalisation of relations with the institutions of (Israeli) occupation... and a violation of the national consensus," they said in a statement.

7 killed in Sudanese attack on Kenyans

NAIROBI (R) — Seven people were killed when hundreds of Sudanese cattle raiders fought with villagers in northern Kenya, police said Saturday. More than 300 Sudanese armed with automatic weapons stormed the frequently troubled region on Friday and seized 1,000 head of cattle and 1,300 goats, a police statement said. In the ensuing fight with Kenya's Turkana villagers, four of the raiders and three local people were killed, it said. The government rushed police and the paramilitary general service unit to pursue the cattle thieves, thought to be from famine-struck southern Sudan.

Iran, Ukraine sign transportation accords

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Ukraine have signed a series of agreements on road, sea and air transport, officials said Saturday. The agreement signed here on Friday between Iranian Transportation Minister Mohammad Saidi Kia and his Ukrainian counterpart, Kelim Pusch, would allow Iran access to Ukraine's road network for sending goods to Western and Central Europe. The new route, which passes through Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Russia, would also ease Iran's dependence on its western neighbour Turkey for links to Europe. Iran signed similar agreements with Azerbaijan and Russia in the past year. "This new route is shorter and much less costly for Iran," said Mr. Saidi Kia. Tehran and Kiev have also agreed to consider establishing weekly flights between the two countries and to use each other's port facilities to expedite transportation. Iran and Ukraine have also reached major accords in the field of oil and gas.

Turkey demands compensation from Swiss

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish Foreign Ministry has demanded compensation from Bern claiming Swiss authorities failed to protect their embassy during an attack by Kurds in which one person died, a Turkish diplomatic source said Saturday. A note delivered Friday to Swiss Ambassador Paul Andre Ramseier said the compensation was for "negligence by the Swiss authorities in failing to protect the Turkish embassy in Switzerland." One of the Kurds died in the attack as shots were fired from the embassy premises. The note followed a protest by Swiss authorities delivered Wednesday to the Turkish Ambassador in Bern Kaya Toperi, in which they criticised the shooting at the Kurds on June 24 and Ankara's lack of cooperation. Turkey's reply said that the Swiss protest was unacceptable and "if the embassy had been well protected at the time there would have been no attack on the building." Turkey has withdrawn four staff from the Bern embassy, accused by the Swiss authorities of having caused the shooting, and has refused to lift their diplomatic immunity.

Italy blocks machinery export to Iran

VENICE (R) — Italian customs officials said Friday they had blocked the export of machinery to Iran because it contravened a ban on the sale of high-technology equipment outside the European Community. Antonio Cutolo, customs chief in the industrial port of Portomarghera in the Venice lagoon, said the consignment consisted of six heat exchangers. The Italian company exporting the merchandise, worth an estimated \$200,000, had declared it as machinery for the pharmaceutical industry and had 10 days to appeal against the customs decision, Mr. Cutolo said. "The machinery is not for this purpose," he said by telephone. He declined to say whether the equipment might have a military or nuclear use. "The merchandise is banned from export," he said. He declined to identify the company involved. But Paolo Cosulich, a senior official at ICM, a Venice-based firm that recently overhauled the equipment, named it as BV Pharmes, a small company in the Milan region.

Lebanon indicts six in bombing plot

BEIRUT (AP) — Military prosecutors on Friday charged Lebanese Muslims with attempting to bomb a gathering of Catholics and Orthodox prelates, apparently to avenge the killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A Muslim man was killed and two others were wounded on June 14 when the bomb they were setting at a crossroads exploded prematurely. Those to be tried include two men who were wounded and four other suspects, the army said in a statement. No trial date was set. "Investigators have concluded that the six suspects conspired to stage the bombing... thinking there were Serb and Croat prelates participating in the Balamand conference," the statement said. Catholic and Orthodox clerics met for a week at the Balamand monastery in northern Lebanon to study ways of resolving the 5th century split between the two churches, one of Christianity's earliest schisms. The conference was attended by 37 prelates, but the Orthodox church in Serbia and the Catholic church in Croatia did not send delegates.

Yemen looks to Gulf neighbours for economic recovery

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Presse

ABU DHABI — Yemen is seeking a way out of its economic problems by mending fences with its wealthy Gulf Arab neighbours that were its main source of income before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, diplomats say.

Yemeni officials are hopeful the gap with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), created by Sanaa's alleged support of Iraq, is narrowing and aid could flow again after a suspension of nearly three years.

"Yemen knows it cannot remain isolated in this region. It needs its neighbours at this particular time when it is engaged in economic reforms, which need financing and investment," a Gulf-based Arab diplomat said.

"The merger of the two Yemen remains in danger without economic recovery, which was promised by the government at the time of the merger. The recurring riots reflect public disappointment with those promises."

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — were Yemen's main aid donors before the 1990 Iraqi invasion, providing the bulk of the \$11 billion the Red Sea country has received in development assistance since 1970.

When North and South Yemen united in May 1990, GCC countries quickly pledged to pump in aid and investment to support the new state. This encouraged the government to press on with economic reforms.

But the pledges did not

materialise because of Yemen's attitude during the Gulf war. According to diplomats, GCC countries virtually gave nothing to Yemen after the war while their investments have remained unchanged at around \$500 million, mostly in oil and farming.

The Gulf Arabs accused Yemen of siding with President Saddam Hussein, while it said it only opposed the use of U.S.-led foreign forces to oust Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The halt in aid has exacerbated Yemen's economic woes although it has gradually boosted oil production to nearly 280,000 barrels per day (bpd), earning it more than \$1 billion a year.

Deficits in its budget and trade persisted, standing at \$874 million and \$900 million respectively in 1991 while it remains saddled with a debt of \$6.2 billion and a service pay-

ment of \$237 million.

The problems were complicated by the return of more than one million Yemenis who were expelled by Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

Diplomats said Yemen had the potential for economic prosperity given its large farming and fishing sector and oil reserves of about four billion barrels. Its gas reserves of 4.6 trillion cubic metres are also among the top 10 reserves in the world.

"Yemen's energy sector could steer it into economic recovery but it needs large funds, especially for gas, which has yet to be tapped," one diplomat said. "You can see the implication of Yemeni-Gulf cooperation."

Yemen's ties with the GCC began to improve after it settled a long-standing border dispute with neighbouring Oman and its foreign ministers visited

the UAE and Bahrain recently. It has also opened negotiations with Saudi Arabia to resolve a similar border problem.

Omani affairs, Yusef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, said after a visit to Sanaa this week the two countries would discuss economic links when their new joint commission meets in September. He said the talks would cover projects to build a road link and set up a joint free trade zone.

Kuwait itself however has rebuffed Sanaa's overtures. Despite that, the Yemeni ambassador in the UAE, Mohammad Al Khawli, told AFP: "You can say relations between Yemen and sisterly Gulf states are back to normal and a new chapter is opened."

"This will open the door for strong political and economic cooperation for the benefit of the whole region."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
05:30	Reve d'enfants
06:30	Les Oies de Fort Boyard
07:00	News in French
07:15	Le Journal de l'Histoire
07:30	News in Hebrew
08:00	News in Arabic
08:30	Step by Step
09:00	The Trials of Life
09:30	News in English
22:00	French series
PRAYER TIMES	
04:00	Fajr
05:30	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:49	Maghrib
21:22	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740	
Assenables of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625380, Tel. 638526	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623228	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824 and 654932	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
77101049.3W9CHURCHES	
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Al Aza 752971	
Dr. Youssef Abdo 694916	
Dr. Mohamed Labach 683585	
Dr. Mohamed Inan 612332	
Firas pharmacy 661912	
Fardous pharmacy 778336	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN: Dr. Youssef Abdo 694916	
Dr. Mohamed Labach 683585	
Dr. Mohamed Inan 612332	
Firas pharmacy 661912	
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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent offers condolences to Emir of Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, condoling him over the death of Bahraini Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Sheikh Khalifah Ben Salman Al Khalifah.

Princess Rania meets NHF director

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdulah Al Hussein Saturday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where she was familiarised with the foundation's projects and programmes in the fields of family planning, culture and education. Princess Rania had a meeting with NHF Director Inam Al Mufti and was briefed by her on the NHF role in supporting national development efforts. Her Royal Highness commended the role of the foundation and lauded its development projects.

Prince Ghazi visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad Saturday visited the Prime Ministry where he had a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Agriculture minister returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Friday returned home after attending the opening ceremony of the British Royal Agricultural Fair, which was inaugurated in Yorkshire July 5. Dr. Kamal met during his stay in the United Kingdom with British Agriculture Secretary and several foreign officials attending the opening ceremony of the fair and discussed with them means of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and their countries in agricultural fields.

Amman to host conference on Arabic music

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of 13 Arab countries will gather in Amman next Saturday to attend the works of the 12th Arabic Music Academy (AMA) conference. AMA Secretary General Munir Bashir said Saturday. At a press conference held in Amman, Mr. Bashir said delegates from Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen and Oman will participate in the three-day conference, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). He said the participants will discuss several issues on Arabic music affairs, means of developing Arabic music and encouraging music production in the Arab World. At the meetings, organised by the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ), the participants will elect a new presidency and general secretariat for the AMA. Mr. Bashir said. He added that the general secretariat will present at the meetings a proposal on establishing a centre for bedouin music tradition in Jordan. Mr. Bashir explained that the Baghdad-based AMA, which was established in 1971, is an Arab League agency which includes all Arab states as members. The academy, he said, includes five main committees on musical education, traditional musical heritage, popular arts, musical production and historical studies. The AMA also cooperates with Arab and international organisations concerned with music activities such as the Arab Radio Stations League, the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Council of Music. The AMA's 11th conference was held in 1989 at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris. NMC Director Kifah Fakhouri commended the good relations between NMC and AMA, saying the conservatory in 1990 helped the AMA to organise an Arab Music party, that, she said, encouraged AMA officials to hold their conference in Amman.

Omani, Jordanian TV officials discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Sultanate of Oman Television Khamis Ben Ahmad Al Musafir Saturday met with several officials from the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation and the Jordan Radio and Television Production Company. Mr. Musafir discussed with the Jordanian officials the prospects of seconding several Jordanian technicians to work in the Omani Ministry of Health's television production unit. Mr. Khamis arrived in Amman Thursday accompanied by Director General of the Omani Ministry of Health's Personnel Affairs Department Youssef Al Mujaini.

Jordan, European bank to discuss water projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the ministries of Planning and Water will Sunday leave for Luxembourg to hold talks with officials from the European Investment Bank on technical issues related to two water projects carried out in the Balqa governorate through financial help from the bank. Othman Al Kurdi of the Ministry of Water said the Jordanian delegation will present to the bank designs, tender documents, feasibility studies and other papers on the JD 17 million projects.

50 poultry shops closed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Municipality has last week ordered the closure of 50 poultry shops for violations of health and public safety regulations. The closure orders come in the wake of an all-out campaign launched against violations of laws by shops selling and slaughtering live poultry. The municipality urged citizens not to buy poultry slaughtered outside Amman's slaughterhouses on the grounds that shops selling fresh poultry meat lack the needed veterinary facilities.

416 Jordanians employed through Aqaba labour office

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Labour and Employment Department has collected JD 112,000 in revenues during the past six months. Department Director Jamal Abu Tayeh said Saturday. Mr. Abu Tayeh said during the same period the department has granted 975 work permits and retrieved 153 expired permits. He said a total of 456 Jordanian job seekers have contacted the department since the beginning of the year, adding that 416 of them were employed since then.

QAF begins vocational training course

IRBID (Petra) — A course in manufacturing puppets and stuffed toys started Saturday at the Princess Basma Social Services Centre of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). Centre Director Nabih Al Rousan said 15 female trainees from various social development centres are participating in the course, which aims at acquainting them with new skills. The course, he said, is considered as a good chance for dressmaking trainees and women to produce toys of good quality. The course will last for two weeks.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian plastic artist Marwan Al Allan at the Jordanian Writers Association.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rissan at the Abdul Hameed Shuman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Esheelia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Noelle Shawwa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by Zuhaira Zaqtan at Bahadna Art Gallery.

Princess Sarvath urges efforts to allow Bosnian refugees access to universities

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassao Saturday urged the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) and other concerned departments to work towards allowing Bosnian refugees in Jordan to enter Jordanian universities and community colleges.

Speaking during her visit to the Bosnian residential centre, Princess Sarvath said that efforts should also be directed towards helping the Bosnian families to carry out social and recreational activities at their premises and elsewhere in Jordan. The Princess was addressing a meeting attended by JHCO Chairman Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and other officials with whom she discussed programmes for the Bosnian families who arrived here last month.

The princess toured the centre and met with the Bosnian families and inspected the handicrafts centre which was set up to train Bosnian women on dressmaking, weaving and knitting, flower arrangement and food processing. The JHCO has provided the knitting and sewing machines and also the various articles and materials used in the handicrafts training programme, according to Dr. Abbadi.

Dr. Abbadi said that arrangements have been made with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) to prepare training programmes to the Bosnian families at the centre.

The princess later toured the Khawlah Bint Al Azwar school for girls where the Bosnian children are taking lessons in Bosnian language at the hands of Jordanian students who had studied in former Yugoslavia and Bosnian teachers living in Jordan.

Princess Sarvath's visit came on the heels of a meeting she held at the Bosnian Centre last week with representatives of non-government organisations operating in Jordan. The meeting was attended by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the U.N. Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organisation for Migration, the Middle East Council of Churches, CARE International and Save the Children's Fund.

Representatives of these organisations voiced appreciation for Jordan's efforts to help the Bosnian refugees and pledged support with donations of cash and other means.

Seminar warns against environment pollution in refugee camps

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Saturday opened a seminar on health work and sanitation in Palestinian refugee camps with a call for the protection of the environment.

"There has been an increasing damage to the environment to an extent that one can only think of appointing special guards to provide protection to the environment and prevent pollution," said the health minister in an address at the opening session.

The seminar has been organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). It was attended by sanitation and health workers employed by the agency in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Syria.

"A person is no more trusting the food he is eating or the nutritional value of food" said Dr. Malhas.

"Cooperation among world organisations to stem any damage to the environment through the appointment of guards is one of the options to fight contamination," he said.

WHO representative Hassan Al Baroudi told the meeting that the seminar was an attempt to familiarise the participants with better means of guarding against environmental pollution.

"This meeting," he added "will focus attention on ways to conduct environmental surveys covering drinking water, solid and liquid waste, combating insects and rodents and ensuring sanitation in schools and institutions."

The seminar is aimed at helping to improve health conditions for the refugees in their camps, said Adel Arrabi, another WHO official.

Health and sanitary conditions in refugee camps, especially in the Gaza Strip, is deteriorating and environmental pollution is at its worst, said Dr. Arrabi.

He said these conditions pose a real danger to human life in the camps.

Dr. Arrabi said that the refugee camps in the occupied Arab lands lack sewerage systems and this is a cause of real concern to WHO and other concerned authorities.

Dr. Arrabi blamed the Israeli authorities for refusing to build sewerage systems in certain areas which prompts the local residents to dump the waste in the open sea, which in turn causes marine pollution.

Participants in the two-week seminar will be discussing health and sanitary requirements and means of controlling the spread of rodents and insects among other important issues.

Jordan, Australia to adjust trade balance

AMMAN (Petra) — Western Australia is willing to develop its relations with Jordan, increase the volume of trade with the Kingdom and launch joint investment projects in various fields, visiting Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries in Western Australia Monty House said Saturday.

Saying that his country would be willing to benefit from Jordanian expertise in free zones affairs, Mr. House said that Australia and Jordan can carry out joint food processing industries and other schemes based on Jordanian phosphate and potash, said Mr. House at a meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket.

Stressing the need for Jordan and Australia to diversify their trade exchange Mr. House said that his country was keen on importing more of Jordanian phosphate and potash in a bid to adjust the balance of trades which is in favour of Australia.

He said this can be facilitated through the exchange of visits by businessmen from the two countries.

Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said that last year Jordan imported JD 9 million worth of products from Australia and exported it JD 256,000 worth of Jordanian goods, mainly phosphate.

Dr. Saket emphasised the need for Australia and Jordan to launch joint investment projects, especially in food and phosphate based industries, urging Australia to buy Jordanian pharmaceutical products in addition to increasing



Jordanian and Australian officials Saturday held talks on means of enhancing trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Jordanian side to the talks was headed by Minister of

Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket (fourth from right) while Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries in Western Australia Monty House (fourth from left) headed the Australian side. (Petra photo)

its phosphate and potash imports.

Dr. Saket suggested a barrier system for exchanging Jordanian and Australian goods saying that Jordan was interested in purchasing wheat in addition to live sheep and meat.

The minister also offered the Jordanian free zones a venue for the joint Australian-Jordanian investment schemes which, he said, can sell their products to neighbouring states.

He also suggested the organisa-

tion of a Jordanian trade fair in Australia to orient the public there with the Kingdom's products.

The outcome of discussions was conveyed to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali who voiced Jordan's keenness on promoting its relations with Australia and increasing trade with it.

Mr. House, who is due to conclude his talks in Jordan Sunday by signing a memorandum of

understanding, earlier met with Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal. The two discussed Jordan's imports of Australian live sheep. Dr. Kamal briefed the guest on Jordan's efforts to promote agriculture in the Jordan Valley and the region's fruit and vegetable exports to world markets.

Mr. House, met also with Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz who briefed the Australian minister on Jordan's economic reform.

Children to be covered by mothers' health insurance

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health is preparing to change its health insurance programme to allow women employees of the government to cover their children and other dependents under certain circumstances, according to Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas. Until now, this had only been allowed to male employees although the monthly premium is the same for both men and women (2% of the employee's salary).

Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the Jordanian Women's Union, herself a government employee in the Ministry of Health, had written a public letter on this issue to Dr. Malhas in Al Ra'i Arabic daily and then met with him personally.

"This is not a new effort," she said. "The Women's Union has been working on this for over a year and approached various people in the government and Parliament." The previous minister of health, she said, had made several promises to eliminate what she called the inequity over more than a year, but nothing was done.

However, she continued, "Dr. Malhas made a promise to do something. I think he will do it." She said Dr. Malhas is widely known as a supporter of women's rights.

Dr. Malhas said that the ministry is now preparing its case for the judicial system and the

Cabinet. "One starts asking why," he said, "since she (a woman) is an employee like her husband and pays premiums, why shouldn't she be able to cover her children — from a logical point of view."

Under the Jordanian Constitution, men and women are equals. However, traditional Islamic law and the major body of other Jordanian laws consider the man to be the sole provider of the family. According to both Dr. Malhas and Ms. Abu Ghazaleh, the reality is that there are families in Jordan that rely on the woman for financial support.

Ms. Abu Ghazaleh said that she and Dr. Malhas had different in their meeting on how many families are excluded from the ministry's health insurance coverage because a woman government employee is the only holder of a health insurance policy in the family.

Dr. Halbas, she stated, believed that this occurs infrequently, but she believes that at least 50,000 women and their families fall into this category.

Dr. Malhas said that under the changes he proposed, a woman's health insurance would cover children who are under 18 years of age if the father holds no insurance policy, parents or siblings if the woman is not married and they depend on her financially, and the husband himself if he is handicapped, disabled or unable to work.

He said that he did not want to negate the role of the man as the



Haifa Abu Ghazaleh

Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas

main supporter of the family, but he also did not want families losing medical coverage if the man did not hold any insurance policy.

"We find this very logical," he said in reference to modifying the insurance programme, "not necessarily just because we want to change the law to support women for the sake of supporting women, but because there are so many illogical laws governing women's activities, more than any that cover men's activities," he said.

One women's rights activist, Huda Fakhouri, strongly criticised Ms. Abu Ghazaleh's public letter to the minister of health. In the June 24 edition of Al Ra'i, Ms. Fakhouri said that Ms. Abu Ghazaleh had used an apologetic and pleading tone in her letter when she should have stood up and demanded what is women's unquestionable right. Ms. Abu Ghazaleh had represented

women poorly, she said. "We are not begging for our rights," said Ms. Abu Ghazaleh. "We will discuss this first — there is no need to open a war with people the first time they come into office."

Ms. Fakhouri told the Jordan Times that besides her disagreement with Ms. Abu Ghazaleh's letter, there were other things that concerned her in regard to the women's rights movement in Jordan. "... Women have not organised themselves properly to form a force which is capable of wielding any real pressure (they) get excited about a certain issue for a limited duration of time and write about it, yet they have not, as yet, been able to actually have any effect on responsible persons" she said.

"The need is for a change in the way women view themselves," she added, "so that they come to believe in themselves as capable of leadership."

YMCA to build community centre

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Young Men Christian Association (YMCA), Jordan is setting up a community development centre, to promote the socio-economic and cultural activities of the local residents.

YMCA Chairman Raouf Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times that work on the first stage of the JD 836,000 project, started in the past week and is planned to be completed in 300 days.

"We awarded the first stage of the project to 'Al Rafidain' local

Engineering Firm to set up a multi-purpose hall, offices and ancillary infrastructure," said Dr. Abu Jaber Saturday.

The Community Development Centre, which will be located in Al Yadoodeh south of Amman, will benefit the residents of the Yadoodeh, Bnayyat, Mqabein, Marji Al Hamam, Um Qsair and Taybeh, added Dr. Abu Jaber.

By setting up this centre YMCA aims to help develop the social and economic status of the local community, promote cultural and educational development

and assist in leadership development activities, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

He said the centre would also serve as a meeting place for conducting Islamic-Christian dialogue in order to promote and encourage co-existence friendship and understanding among the Christian and Muslim youth in these areas.

Referring to YMCA activities in Jordan Dr. Abu Jaber said that the YMCA has been organising an annual four-week summer camp for Jordanian youth. Each year, 550 male and

female orphans gather in these camps, set up along the Naour road on the premises of the Amman Training College operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said Dr. Abu Jaber.

He said that the participants are offered the chance to carry out cultural sports and recreational activities and be trained in various handicrafts and computer work. He said the YMCA finances the full accommodation of these children and the cost of their activities.

Rockets fired at Israeli positions

(Continued from page 1)

said that it had also fired katyusha rockets at an Israeli radar station inside the "security zone."

An Israeli army spokesman denied that any rockets had hit Israeli territory.

Israeli leaders are weighing the possibility of a heavy incursion into Lebanon.

They also warned that the fighting could further block the already stalled peace negotiations between Israel and Syria.

"The Israel defense force will not be placid with this for long," Ori Orr, head of the parliamentary committee for security and foreign affairs and former northern commander, said on Israel television Friday night.

"I don't rule out the possibility of extensive action," he said.

Lebanon toured the area, Friday, media reports said.

Officials blamed Syria for the heated-up situation.

"Syria is doing almost nothing to stop these groups," Mr. Orr said. "It could put many blocks, but it is not."

"We could weigh a hinted military action. The army could go to bases of these organisations under Syrian control," he said.

The violence escalated as U.S. State Department envoy Dennis Ross met with Israelis, Palestinians and Egyptians to try to break a negotiating deadlock.

Israelis brought up "Syrian responsibility" for the attacks in their talks with Mr. Ross, said Itamar Rabinovich, the ambassador to the United States and the head of the negotiating team with the Syrians.

"The fact that there is violence, that Israeli soldiers were killed and that apparently it was done by the organisation of Ahmad Jibril, that happens to be headquartered in Damascus, is a cause of serious concern to us," he told reporters after the meeting.

U.N. team confident of Iraq task

(Continued from page 1)

installation came under the long term surveillance phase of the disarmament of Iraq under U.N. resolutions.

This would begin once Resolution 687, ordering the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, was implemented, he argued.

"Baghdad asked that the U.N. special disarmament commission meet to assess Iraq's implementation of Resolution 687," Mr. Hummadi said.

But a meeting scheduled for

Monday had been cancelled by special commission head Rolf Ekus "who wants to exert illegal pressure on Iraq."

Iraq says it has implemented 95 per cent of the U.N. resolutions. Mr. Hummadi accused Mr. Ekus and "those who support him" of being at the roots of "this crisis provoked with the United Nations."

They were seeking to merge the destruction and long term surveillance phases, Mr. Hummadi said.

TESCO courses in Amman

Minolta, BEO, Germany, has a long-standing tradition of convening a yearly technical training course in one of the countries in the Middle East. This time, the course was convened at Amman Forte Grand Hotel and attended by many participants from TESCO and from neighbouring Arab countries. The course, which began on July 1993, lasted for one week. The main aim of these training courses is to give proper technical training on the new models of Minolta Copiers and to update the engineers on the state of the art in copier technology at Minolta. The course was ended with a small party given by the hosting company, TESCO, where all participants had a taste of Jordan hospitality.

Meeting to discuss administrative procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on administrative and financial inspection and control will open in the Institute of Public Administration Sunday under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Institute Director General Zuhair Al Kayed said the seminar, to be attended by director

generals of ministries and heads of government departments and institutions aims to debate the Jordanian experiment in the field of financial and administrative control and inspection measures on the one hand, and defining places of inter-relevance and duplication of duties between the concerned institutions

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جوردن تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Worship above politics

ON THURSDAY, the minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs urged mosque preachers to remain neutral as far as politics is concerned and to limit their sermons to explaining Islam to worshippers. Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi told preachers that they should not take sides with political factions and should promote dialogue among all people and groups in society. The minister was stressing the role of the mosque as a meeting place for all Muslims of different shades of opinion. The clear message was that, in an era of democracy and political pluralism, and in an age of uncertainty and search for identity and solutions to earthly problems, the mosque should play a more constructive role in advocating peaceful debate and tolerance among all citizens of this country.

But Thursday quickly gave way to Friday, on which day the list of mosque preachers in Amman showed that at least half a dozen were leading political figures, mainly Islamist deputies. One of course does not expect non-Islamists to preach at our mosques, but the hope has always been that no single party, least of all political, should have an edge over other parties at houses of worship.

There have been complaints recently that mosque preachers and speakers have used the pulpit to attack or demean certain political parties or groups. This places the mosque, the most frequented place, on one side of the political spectrum extending support to one side and withholding it from other Muslims. Minister Abbadi was conspicuously less explicit on this point but he still warned that "the sanctity of the mosques should not be harmed by any one or used to serve any personal or factional goals."

Now that elections have been set for November this year, the campaign which will start in earnest, cannot, by law, be conducted in houses of worship, be they mosques or churches. Words uttered in those places have to not only cleanse our souls of earthly matters and petty rivalries. They have to encourage leaving politics to be practised by politicians in political houses and arenas.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of the state to ensure that the message that emanates from the mosque is pious, wise and tolerant. Especially at this crucial time in our history, mosques and churches should not serve to favour one political faction over the other or take sides. Hence politicians and political activists should not be allowed to make use of the fact that they can reach the pulpit and others cannot. Minister Abbadi needs to do more than preach to preachers; he should make sure that the list of preachers that his ministry releases every Friday does not include politicians of any sort. This would leave places of worship free from electioneering and guarantee that politicians are seen as such and operating within their proper and legal context in society.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPITE REPEATED pledges by the U.S. administration that it would play the role of full and active partner in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, nothing has been achieved during the 10th round where the Americans failed to live up to expectations, said Al Ra'i daily Saturday. Indeed, Washington played a biased role towards Israel rather than playing a neutral role with the purpose of helping the two sides to achieve, a just peace, said the paper. Furthermore, U.S. Secretary of States Warren Christopher's statement Friday that his country was determined to remove the points of differences between the two sides is regarded as a warning from the Clinton administration to the Arabs to accept Israel's terms for a settlement, continued the paper. It said that the Palestinians are the party concerned here because they have been demanding that Jerusalem be placed on the agenda, a demand totally opposed by the Israeli government which has been responsible for the failure of the peace talks so far. The Americans, who are making these statements now are also responsible for the failure of the talks because they failed to honour their own commitment and also failed to pinpoint the party responsible for the failure, proving to the world that Israel's intransigence is the stumbling block in the path of peace, added the paper. The American document presented to the Palestinians adopted the Israeli views, disregarded the question of Jerusalem and overlooked the question of Jewish settlements, said the daily. It said the Palestinians and the Arabs have the full right to demand a clear American stand vis-a-vis the talks before agreeing to take part in further sessions.

COMMENTING ON a visit to Israel by U.S. peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross, Sawt Al Shaab daily said Saturday that the talks ended in deadlock due to Israel's intransigent position, and so the Ross mission has failed before the envoy started his tour of Arab capitals. The daily said that Israel has proven again and again that it refuses to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 224 and 338 which call for Israeli withdrawal from lands occupied since 1967, including the Arab part of Jerusalem. The Israelis have approved the American document, submitted to the Palestinians and the Israelis, concerning the autonomy rule for the Palestinians simply because it overlooked the status of Jerusalem, said the daily. It added that the American envoy has failed in his mission probably because he tried to make Israel budge from its present position and meet the Palestinians halfway. The paper said that Mr. Ross will now tour Cairo, Damascus and Amman to sound out their position with regard to the continuation of peace talks, but we believe that the big gap between the Arabs and the Israelis would prevent such continuation. The paper said that the Arab parties to the peace talks with Israel which plan to hold a meeting, following Mr. Ross's tour to assess the situation, should cling to their coordination and their collective demands that peace should be comprehensive on all tracks and based on the exchange of land for peace. It said these are the principles on which the U.N. resolutions were based.

Tahar Ben Jelloun, a Moroccan who has lived in Paris for the past two decades, is the author of seven novels and four volumes of poetry. Winner of the 1987 Prix Goncourt, his works have been translated into 25 languages. Following are excerpts of an interview conducted last week in Rome with Newsweek's Ken Shulman:

Question: Emigration, immigration and racism have always been central themes in your novels.
Answer: I am obligated to deal with these themes, as they are part of the landscape of Europe and northern Africa. Northern Africa is a land of emigration. And France is a land of immigration.

Q: Not for much longer, at least according to recent statements made by French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

A: Charles Pasqua is trying to appease the extreme right, to take advantage of the ignorance and prejudices of a certain sector of the French electorate that has made a connection between immigration and fear among the French. This is a total inversion of the situation. The truth is that it is the immigrants who are afraid. They are the ones who are victims of attacks, of bombings and of

violence. The fear the French feel is imaginary, chimerical. Pasqua's demagoguery is merely an attempt to show the extreme right that the government is capable of taking a strong position.

Q: Why is the extreme right and the National Front so popular in France?

A: Any time there is a crisis, the people need to find a culprit. And this time the finger has been pointed at the immigrants, even though economists have demonstrated that immigration has nothing to do with the country's economic woes. Those are caused by the evolution of society, by modernity, by technology, by having to compete in an international market. Yet these concepts are hard to understand, and even harder to explain: it is much easier to tell an unemployed person that he has lost his job on account of an Arab. And this is not only on the extreme right. By now, the equation immigration-equals-unemployment-equals-crisis has been so widely repeated that people all across the political spectrum begin to believe it.

Q: The situation, as you describe it, is similar to that of Germany in the 1930s.

A: It is, but there are also several differences. German society in the '30s was much more frag-

mented than that of France today. It was still reeling from defeat in World War I, and there was nothing to stem the tide of racism once it began to swell. Today there are anti-racist associations and groups like Amnesty International that offer resistance to mass movements of racism. There was no resistance in the

France. Germany has no historic relationship with Turkey, while France has a long and tumultuous one with Algeria. In Germany, the extreme right movements are opposed to foreigners in general. This is a more classic form of racism. In France, there are still memories of Algeria as a French colony. Many of the people who

Q: How would you begin the history of French immigration? With colonialism?

A: This is quite simple. Immigration is obviously a consequence of colonialism. The development of France was accomplished thanks to the sweat and labour of immigrants. What people tend to forget

day, you'll find a large percentage of names that are not French.

Q: The immigrant families you describe in your fiction often suffer from a lack of cultural identity.

A: It is inevitable that the immigrant loses his roots. Most of them are poor, illiterate people who come from remote villages in Morocco or Algeria or Tunisia. They arrive in a western society with television, cinema, advertising, and they are totally lost. The situation is even more dramatic for their children who are born in France. Their parents are people who have been denuded of everything, even of their history. They have no stories to tell, no books to recommend, nothing they can offer to counter the onslaught of French culture. Their children end up not knowing if they're Moroccan or French, or something in between.

Q: Is there an alternative to immigration?

A: Development. If a country develops, it will no longer need to send its men abroad to work. It may not be in Europe's interest in the short run, but in the long run promoting development would be a good investment. Europe needs north Africa, just as it needs the southern Mediterranean. And it needs (them) now.

Development can stop immigration

"It is inevitable that the immigrant loses his roots. Most of them are poor, illiterate people who come from remote villages in Morocco or Algeria or Tunisia. They arrive in a western society with television, cinema, advertising, and they are totally lost. The situation is even more dramatic for their children who are born in

France. Their parents are people who have been denuded of everything, even of their history. They have no stories to tell, no books to recommend, nothing they can offer to counter the onslaught of French culture. Their children end up not knowing if they're Moroccan or French or something in between."

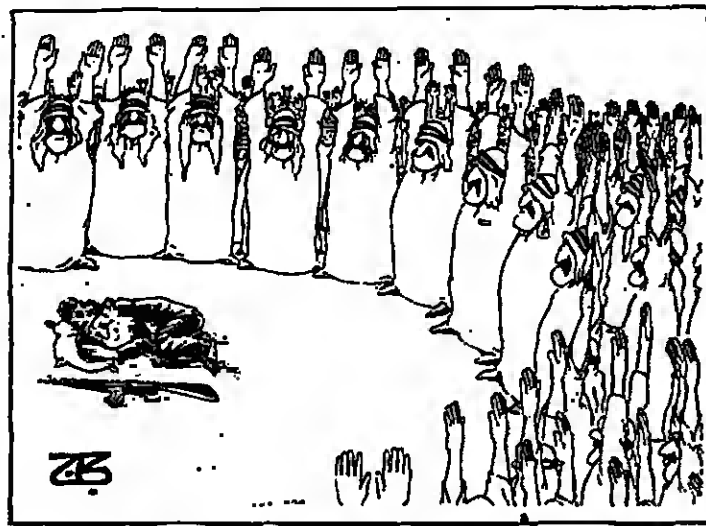
1930s. If anything, I see a nostalgia today for an epoch when it was easier for a European to manifest his hatred of foreigners.

Q: There may be resistance today, but the frequency and intensity of racially motivated attacks are rising rapidly in Europe.

A: Here, too, you must draw a distinction between Germany and

France. Germany has no historic relationship with Turkey, while France has a long and tumultuous one with Algeria. In Germany, the extreme right movements are opposed to foreigners in general. This is a more classic form of racism. In France, there are still memories of Algeria as a French colony. Many of the people who

is that the French arrived in northern Africa with their trucks and went to villages looking for labour. These men were brought back to France to work, and when there was a shortage of soldiers on the front, they put these immigrants into uniform. This is something the French don't know. But if you look through military cemeteries to-



Out of balance

By Yosef Ben Aharon

The writer, a former director-general of the prime minister's office, headed Israel's negotiating team with Syria from the Madrid peace talks through June 1992. The following article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

THE LATEST American document, which aims to bridge over the differences between Israel and the Palestinians, bears the distinct imprint of Dennis Ross and his close associates, Dan Kurtzer and Aaron Miller.

It is supposed to project a balanced approach, that takes both sides' views into consideration, ostensibly incorporating some "constructive ambiguity."

In fact, it is a blatantly one-sided document that satisfies many of the major Palestinian demands at the expense of vital Israeli interests.

I hasten to stress that one should not lay the blame for this turn of events at the doorstep of Dennis Ross and his colleagues. Primary responsibility for the contents of this document lies with our government which has hastened to make one-sided concessions throughout the last five rounds of negotiations, and was rewarded by deadlocks and ever-growing demands from the Palestinians.

It is the Israeli government that agreed to the inclusion of a Jerusalem Arab in the Palestinian delegation. It also agreed to the participation of a PLO member in the multilateral talks. It informed the Palestinians that the areas of Judea, Samaria (Israeli given names to the West Bank) and Gaza will be treated as one territorial unit, thus burying finally the Labour Party's commitment to "territorial concessions" in its political platform.

In addition, it accepted the concept of "interlock" between the interim stage talks and the permanent status negotiations, thus undermining the importance of the interim stage as a testing period of coexistence and cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians.

All these concessions run counter to the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords and the Madrid formula.

Furthermore, our government abolished the law banning meetings with PLO functionaries, while some of its ministers are openly calling on Rabin to meet with Yasser Arafat. Other ministers are intimating that they would not be averse to concessions even on Jerusalem if that were the last obstacle to an agreement.

Against this background, it is not surprising that the American "bridging" proposal takes us considerably closer to the ultimate Palestinian demands.

It has totally eroded the original concept of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian

side is treated on a par with Israel, in effect representing a sovereign entity in the making. For the first time, Israel will be formally agreeing to the inclusion of Jerusalem on the agenda of the permanent status negotiations.

Contrary to the position of all previous Israeli governments, the Palestinian self-government body will be invested with legislative, in addition to executive, powers. Both elements do not appear in the Camp David accords or in the Madrid formula, which were designed to provide the Palestinian body with administrative powers only.

"The latest American document is supposed to project a balanced approach, that takes both sides' views into consideration, ostensibly incorporating some 'constructive ambiguity.' In fact, it is a blatantly one-sided document that satisfies many of the major Palestinian demands at the expense of vital Israeli interests."

In all previous rounds of negotiations from Camp David on, it was understood that the residual authority, as well as responsibility for overall security of the areas in question, would remain in Israeli hands. In Camp David, the Palestinian police force was intended to "assist in providing... security." In the American document, however, there is no provision for the retention of the residual authority by Israel.

As for the critical issue of security, the document says: "The Israelis and the Palestinians agree that the security of both sides will be respected and strengthened through the negotiation process." In other words, Israel and the Palestinians are placed on an equal footing even with regard to security.

In sum, the latest American document, which purports to represent a set of principles agreed to by Israel and Palestinians, is nothing short of a stepping-stone to an independent Palestinian state over all of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, probably under the control of the PLO, which would also wield some authority over Jerusalem.

Japanese question the miracle and its makers

By Elaine Kurtenbach

The Associated Press

TOKYO — After World War II, the Japanese gave up believing their emperor was a god and transferred their faith to the economy, a benevolent deity that offered security and a better life as rewards for devotion.

Now, with Japan's industrial competitiveness dulled and the political leadership in shambles, faith in the economic miracle and the institutions that fashioned it appears to be waning.

The defeat of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's administration by reformers, culminating years of scandal and disillusion, is seen as a turning point that may equal the end of the shogun rule in the late 18th century.

Polls indicate many Japanese believe their country has been moving in the wrong direction. The political turmoil has reinforced the conviction that change is needed, and not just in corrupt political institutions.

"The reason Japan was so successful is that each Japanese sacrificed his own personal life for the sake of big corporations," said Masao Miyamoto of the Health and Welfare Ministry, who has publicly criticised fellow bureaucrats' conformist attitudes. "That was OK up to now, but now we have to change."

Scandal upon scandal has revealed mismanagement that gnawed at the economy's financial foundations and helped push Japan into its worst recession in two decades.

Painful belt-tightening by corporations has shaken faith in the Japanese way of doing business, leading even its most successful proponents to demand changes.

The formula for Japan's economic success, effective and appropriate in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, can no longer be accepted or defended," said Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp. Other business leaders have made similar comments.

Despite cozy ties with establishment politicians, many executives have welcomed the possibility that the upheaval in the governing Liberal Democratic Party will result in new policies.

Mr. Miyazawa lost a confidence vote in parliament on June 18, leaving Japan with a lame duck government.

Since then, 56 lawmakers have defected from the scandal-tainted Liberal Democrats, raising the possibility that the party will be forced out of power for the first time since it was founded 38 years ago.

Whether that will happen depends on how willing the deeply conservative Japanese are to accept changes they have put off for years. The Liberal Democrats still are given credit for presiding over the seemingly miraculous progress from defeat and destitution to the world's second largest economy.

By some measures, Japan is the most affluent of nations. It has the highest per capita income (\$23,801 in 1990) and savings (\$45,118), the world's richest businessman: railroad magnate Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, at \$9 billion, the most expensive real estate, and many of the wealthiest corporations.

To that can be added some matters of national pride: an extremely low rate of violent crime, high public health standards and low unemployment.

But the wealth amassed by business and funneled to the political elite also exposes a sharp contrast with the confined living and working conditions of average Japanese.

When investigators found huge stashes of gold and other illicit wealth in the home of Shin Kanemaru, the former godfather of Japanese politics, popular disgust with political corruption reached its peak.

At the same time, economic confidence has faded. Unprecedented bankruptcies and layoffs, although small in number by western standards, have led to worry that the Japanese economy may be as subject to stagnation as those of the West.

"Japanese businessmen used to pride themselves on having a first-rate economy even though their political system was third-rate, but they have subsequently seen how fragile even the economy really is," said Ryuzo Sato, a commentator for the newspaper Yomiuri.

Some economists believe the orgy of investment and consumer spending in the boom 1980s was an aberration that may never recur.

Others, such as Kenneth S. Courtis, a senior economist of Deutsche Bank, believe the current slowdown is just a breather. He argues that Japan will emerge "leaner and meaner," having pared down the fat of the 1980s, when asset prices inflated beyond all reason and companies and individuals overextended themselves on easy credit.

Even if Japan remains immune to the "Igitu Byo," or English, disease, of economic stagnation, rising unemployment and falling productivity, many commentators feel it is becoming hostage to its postwar success.

Haru Shimada, an economics professor at Keio University, cites the "big business syndrome," a growing tendency to conformity and conservatism that renders decision-makers incapable of independent thought or radical action.

Mr. Shimada says the Japanese need new national goals: more equal distribution of wealth and greater emphasis on individual happiness, translated into better working and living conditions.

Achieving those goals would require land and tax reforms and less catering to special-interest groups — particularly to the most powerful of those groups, the government bureaucracy.

"It is absurd to produce high-quality products when you do not live comfortably," said Mr. Miyamoto, who has publicly denounced the conformist attitudes of fellow bureaucrats in the Health and Welfare Ministry.

In the hard postwar years, the bureaucracy carefully nurtured selected industries and kept the nation politically stable. But now, critics say, it stifles the creativity that Japan needs.

Even if the Liberal Democrats lose the parliamentary election this month, reformers will face great obstacles from bureaucrats accustomed to drafting and implementing most government policies.

"In my opinion, the seeds of Japan's downfall lie in what, until now, has been the secret of its success: immense bureaucratic influence," said Kazuo Inamori, chairman of the high-tech Kyocera Corp.

LETTERS

SOS again from troubled waters

To the Editor:

With reference to the letter titled "The ebbs and tides of a ship" that appeared in the July 5 issue of the Jordan Times, we, the captain and crewmembers of the vessel referred to in the letter, would like to clarify the following:

1. We have no quarrel or legal battle with the Ports Corporation. Our claims in salaries were from the owners of the ship, Ibn Majed, and we already have won three consecutive cases in an Aqaba court which had ordered that our claims be settled from the proceeds of the ship's sale.
2. We, the crew, are in no way responsible for the actions of the shipowners, charterer or the agents. The ownership claims of the vessels and the episode of changing names and registration as cited in the letter do not involve or concern us simply because we are paid employees who obey the orders of the owner, charterer or agent who represents the owner and charterer at every port of call the ship makes. Nor did we stand to gain anything from whatever commercial manoeuvres anyone of them adopted.
3. The ship was auctioned on Jan. 17, 1993, for a sum of JD 126,000. The claims of the captain and 10 crewmembers of the ship until Jan. 15 amount to \$38,945/ plus our air passage home under International Marine Law.
4. The problem, as we understand it, is the pending cases filed against the ship by the Ports Corporation and the agents. But we would like to point out here that Article 50 of the International Marine Law, to which Jordan is a signatory, clearly states that the claims of the crew take precedence over all other claims except the charges for docking, piloting, fresh water and other services offered by the host port.
5. The total amount of the Ports Corporation's claim, which is entitled to seek under the International Marine Law, does not exceed more than JD 20,000. But the actually-sought for claim in court by the Ports Corporation is more than JD 110,000 since it has included anchorage charges, which, under the International Marine Law, should be or could be paid only after settling the dues of the crew.

Furthermore, under the same law, agents of the ship are supposed to be the guarantor for payment of the docking charges and other related fees and the ports authorities all over the world retain bank guarantees from agents to ensure this payment. We do not see why the due procedure was not followed in this case.

In any event, the fact remains that regardless of the outcome of the pending cases filed by the Ports Corporation and the agents, the dues of the crew have to be settled immediately. Or, at least, the law has to be implemented.

The legal facts of this case are clear, and the Foreign Ministry of Jordan has attested to this fact, affirming that the International Marine Law takes precedence over all other laws in this case.

May we also point out that what we are trying to present here is not a distorted version of the law to suit our purpose. Anyone who is familiar with the law can ascertain the facts of the case from a cursory look.

In fact, sailors all over the world leave their loved ones behind and board ships on year-long voyages with the assurance that the International Marine Law is so structured that no one can deprive them of their wages, which they earn with their sweat and blood.

From what we have seen and heard in this beautiful land, Jordan is the last country which would want to be labelled as one which did not respect the same law which also protects its own sailors in a foreign port.

In the meantime, we are facing a new dilemma. The new owners of the ship sailed the vessel out of Aqaba on May 28, 1993, and we were ordered out from the shelter we had since the beginning of our ordeal in October 1991. We are now shelterless and helpless in a land which is not our own and are struggling to survive.

The hotel where we are staying (at our own cost) since we left the ship is threatening to kick us out unless we pay our dues. In the meantime, there is no sign of the court beginning to hear more and more desperate and deeper into trouble, both financially and morally.

We have not seen our families for over two years and at least two of us had to cancel our plans for marriage because the Ports Corporation demanded that we stay aboard the ship to fulfill the "safe-manning" requirement.

Despite our suffering, we bear no ill-will towards anyone. This beautiful country and its waters hosted us for more than 20 months now, and we are very grateful for it.

May we use this opportunity to appeal to the leadership and government of this country to look into our suffering and put an end to it so that we could leave Jordan with a pleasant memory that there was someone who heard us and helped us.

Captain Deniz Aranha,
Al Manara Hotel, Room 21,
Aqaba.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Man, nature threaten Cairo's history

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — The ravages of man and the rumbles of nature are threatening the minarets, domes, arches and towers of Islam that have dominated Cairo's skyline for 1,000 years.

The peril was accelerated by a killer earthquake that damaged almost 200 Islamic monuments in Cairo last October.

Alarmed by the crisis, experts from the United States, Europe, Asia and Egypt — including U.S. specialists in protecting historic buildings against earthquake damage — gathered last month to explore ways to save the city's historic areas.

The key is to pinpoint a building's weak areas and determine how to strengthen them. But the U.S. National Park Service's David Look of San Francisco, said scientists can take months to identify a weakness, while "an earthquake finds it in seconds."

Miguel Angel Corzo, director of the J. Paul Getty Conservation Institute of Marina Del Rey, Calif., said scientists at his institute use mockups of historical buildings on "shake tables" to study seismic activity.

"We're trying to find ways to safeguard monuments beforehand, rather than fix them when they fall down," Mr. Corzo said.

He said Islamic architecture seems little known or appreciated by much of the world, despite its beauty and creativity.

Safeguarding Cairo's Islamic heritage has never received top priority among Egyptian officials. Medieval monuments largely have disappeared in Europe and the Middle East. But Cairo contains the world's largest collection.

Engineer James Wight of the University of Michigan, a specialist in seismic threats to historic buildings, surveyed many monuments soon after last October's earthquake.

He said problems arose more from neglect than from quake damage.

"The earthquake was like a sledgehammer," he said. "The monuments started to deteriorate, and were allowed to deteriorate."

And Ibrahim Bakr, Egypt's antiquities chairman, opened the four-day conference with the admission that emergency work done after the earthquake was "insufficient."

"We are doing all what we can, but at best we can do little," he said. "Sometimes we are working day and night. It's the least we can do to say we are doing something for the next generation."

The Egyptian Antiquities Organisation sponsored the conference with the Getty Institute and the American Research Centre in Egypt, which oversees U.S. academic and archaeological projects.

Before the quake, the antiquities organisation employed 30 engineers and architects repairing 50 Islamic monuments yearly. The earthquake damaged 198, with scores needing immediate repair.

Several different organisations have plans to fix most of the damaged structures, but 26 still have nobody to repair them.

Emergency work has left some of the city's most historic buildings in scaffolding. Metal poles support portions of certain monuments.

Patchwork restoration has left parts of buildings in a precarious state. Stone decorations, beautifully painted ceilings and inlaid archways are poised to collapse.

The rumble of passing traffic could do it. Or another earthquake. Periodic quakes in the past have wrought major destruction.

"The one thing that's certain is that sometime in the future, Cairo will have another earthquake," said David Sykora of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "It's possible Cairo has yet to feel its most dangerous quake."

Last year's tremor was centred a few kilometres south of Cairo and registered 5.9 on the Richter scale, which measures ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Sykora said Egyptian specialists have little scientific data about that earthquake or others in Egypt's long history.

But they say weak soil in most of Cairo's historic zones leaves the monuments vulnerable.

And sewage water from leaky pipes or lack of pipes has been eating away at the monuments for years. The old city's first sewage system is not scheduled for completion until 1995.

Forty years ago, Cairo boasted 622 Islamic monuments. Today there are 560, though one would be hard-pressed to locate some of them. Most are nestled within medieval Cairo's congested, narrow alleyways, battered by pollution and noise from small factories and passing vehicles, their underpinnings threatened by construction of high-rise buildings.

Mapping path to heart of cell

Unveiling growth signals may help treat cancers

By Natalie Angier

NEW YORK — With a splendid convergence of discoveries from a broad range of disciplines, biologists at last have sketched out the crucial events that tell a cell it is time to divide. They have traced the pilgrimage of a biochemical signal from the moment it impinges on the delicate skin of the cell, through to its arrival in the cell's deep nuclear soul, where the directive to multiply can be fulfilled.

In understanding this essential pathway of life after a quest of 13 years, molecular biologists are now gazing upon a fundamental revelation into how the body grows.

It turns out the signaling pathway of the cell is a kind of molecular comedy, in which one protein hooks up to a second protein that then jointly push a button on an enzyme that pushes a button on another enzyme that makes this knob slide into that hole.

The design works wondrously in overseeing cell growth, so well that it is shared by species as diverse as yeast, worms, flies and humans. And as a recent deluge of reports makes clear, scientists are elated at last to have cracked the puzzle of the cellular event known as the "activation of the ras pathway."

The pathway is a series of molecular reactions that begins when a stimulatory compound in the blood system tucks a protein on the surface of a cell and ends with new cell growth. The ras pathway is the principal circuitry through which a signal to divide reaches central headquarters in the cell's nucleus, although scientists believe that other subsidiary growth pathways may exist.

At the heart of the lung, intricate pathway is the ras protein, which is so central to cell growth that defects in the protein are

thought to account for up to a third of all human cancers. In some cases, such as tumors of the pancreas and colon, from 511 to 90 per cent may result from a mutational blow to the gene that makes the ras protein.

In the past several months, dozens of reports on the ras pathway have appeared in major journals. At the annual meeting on the genetics of cancer in Frederick, Maryland, presentations on the ras cascade dominated the sessions.

"There is more known now about the ras pathway by far than about any other pathway in the cell," said Dr. Michael Wigler of Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbour, New York, an early pioneer in the study of the ras gene. "There has been a great advantage in having so many people studying the problem, because there are things that come out in the details that are precious."

Indeed, the details are the breath and blood of the story. It is one thing to know in hazy outline what happens to make a cell divide; it is quite another to know which proteins comport with which and in what order to carry out the task.

"There are still gaps in our understanding, and a few links are still obscure," said Dr. Robert A. Weinberg of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "But I did manage to draw all this up in one glorious wiring diagram recently and present it at a talk."

The wiring of the cell, he said, "is no longer any more inaccessible to study than the wiring of a transistor radio."

And while much of the latest work focuses on a basic understanding of the ras communications system, two papers published in the current issue of the journal Science suggest the work may be swiftly translated into real

cancer therapies.

In the reports, researchers announced that, in test-tube results, they were able to block a step necessary for the ras protein to convey a cancerous signal to the nucleus. Using small synthetic peptides or drugs distantly related to Valium, the scientists prevented the ras protein from finding its proper niche just inside the membrane of the cell, a positioning essential if ras is to operate as the mastermind of a signaling cascade.

And while the drugs can also interfere mildly with the performance of the protein in healthy cells, for a variety of reasons the inhibitory effect is vastly amplified in cancer cells, depriving them of the power to divide lawlessly and returning them to a seemingly normal state.

In their ability to home in on a specific part of a signaling pathway in cells, rather than merely attacking and killing anything that divides, as standard chemotherapy drugs do, the new compounds approach the silver bullet method of which biologists and doctors have long dreamed.

The new therapeutics will not be ready for human trials for two to three years, said Allen Oliff, the executive director for cancer research at Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, Pennsylvania, and the preliminary observations may never come to anything. Nevertheless, he said, "In an oncologist, and from my viewpoint it's the most exciting thing I've seen in the last 15 years."

Dr. Oliff and a colleague, Dr. Jackson B. Gibbs, led the team responsible for one of the two science reports. The other study came from a collaboration between the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas and Genentech Inc. in South San Francisco. Researchers elsewhere are seeking differ-

ent Achilles' heels along the ras cascade. The initial work on the ras gene began around 1980, when scientists realised that the gene could contribute to cancer and thus merited a designation as an oncogene. Like most of the 511 other known oncogenes, the ras gene was named after the animal species and tumor type in which its nefarious effects were first discovered — in this case, as the

cause of a rat sarcoma, or connective-tissue cancer.

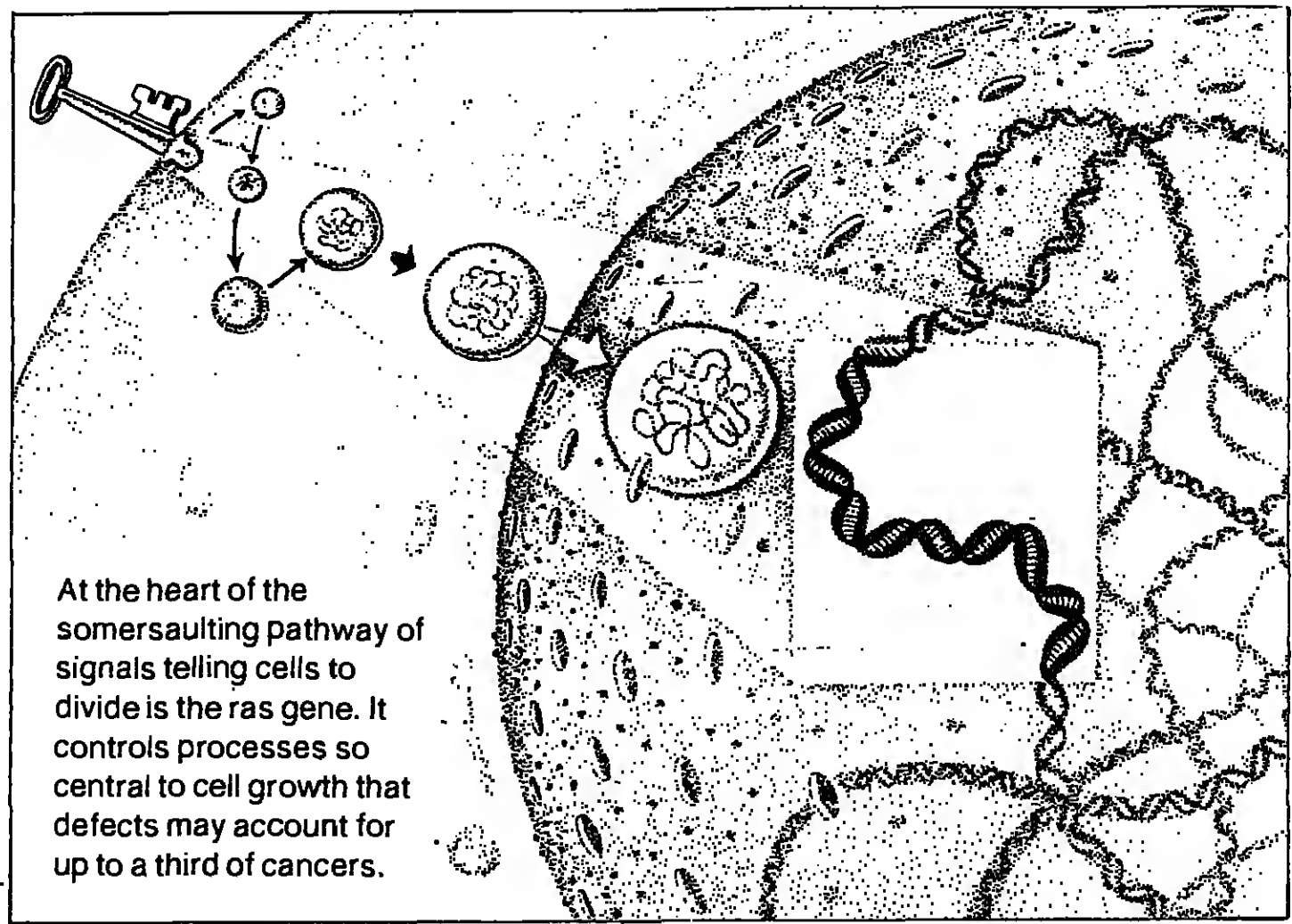
Biologists discovered that the only difference between a robust version of ras that is vital to life, and the malevolent version that helps cause cancer, is a single subunit, or base pair, out of the many thousands of base pairs that make up the gene.

Normally, when the ras protein is in an inactive state, it clings a

small molecule called GDP. Upon being elbowed into action by a stimulant like a growth factor, the protein tosses away the GDP and picks up a more active molecule called GTP from the cell's own cache, an exchange that allows the ras protein to pass its excitatory message along towards the nucleus.

Once its transmission chore is through, the ras protein obliging-

ly switches itself off, using a bit of its own enzymatic machinery to transform the active GTP into the more sedate molecule, GDP. The point mutation destroys this act of self-control, leaving ras always gripping GTP and thus in an incessantly stimulated condition — whether an external signal to grow is there or not — International Herald Tribune.



Memories are made of a million million connections

By Steve Connor

THE MAKING OF MEMORY

By Steven Rose
Bantam Press £16.99

As Steven Rose, author of *The Making of Memory* (Bantam Press), this year's winner of the Science Book Prize, says: "No memory within a computer could survive such a complete turnover of all the machine's constituent parts. Somehow, just as the shapes of our bodies persist despite the ceaseless ebb and flow of their molecular components, so do our memories, embedded in the structure and processes of the brain."

Professor Rose, a neurobiologist at the Open University, has spent most of his professional life trying to understand how the brain remembers. He works on the brains of new-born chicks, who at a few days old can be trained simple memory tasks, such as learning to avoid coloured beads from the memory of having once pecked at one soaked in a bitter substance.

Sophisticated instruments that can detect minute amounts of substances in the chicks' brains help him to compare a chick with a certain memory of an event with one that has no such mem-

ory. The results are fascinating. It appears from his work that

"The truth, no doubt, will prove more complex than this. The power of the human brain remains one of the greatest achievements of natural selection. The molecules of the brain, like those in the rest of our body, are changed completely many times over during our lifetime. The connections between nerve cells are broken and replaced perhaps thousands or millions of times. And yet our memories remain, we hope, intact."

memories do not stay put in one place after they are formed, but divide into multiple copies of themselves and wander off around the brain, perhaps with different parts of the experience stored in different places, in much the same way that a secretary might photocopy an important document and send copies to relevant departments.

Scientists now believe in a "connectionist" view of the brain, where the millions upon millions of nerve cells act as a vast network or grid. Professor Rose and his colleagues suggest that sensations, from a bitter-tasting substance to the death of a loved one, stimulate electrical activity in nerve cells that trigger new connections to sprout between

the cells. This constant rewiring of the brain, and the need to keep it primed for electrical activity, could account for why it is such an energy-hungry organ. Could the new connections also be the physical manifestation of memory?

The truth, no doubt, will prove more complex than this. The power of the human brain remains one of the greatest achievements of natural selection. Each of us can, for instance, recognise up to 10,000 human faces — one Roman general, Publius Scipio, was said to be able to put names to his entire army of 35,000 men.

But most of us are not Scipio-like. Somehow the brain carefully filters out the important things in life for long-term storage. The trivia gets weeded out, or so we

hope. (How many times has an idiotic tune haunted you for days on end?)

For all its importance, the brain remains an enigma. We know it consists of about ten thousand million nerve cells and there are ten million million con-

nections and pathways between these cells. We also know a little about the enormous amount of energy consumed by the brain. Despite weighing only a 50th of the body's weight, the brain uses about a quarter of the energy we need in a typical day. An ounce

of brain burns more calories than an ounce of muscle uses during exercise. Being conscious is harder work than running to work. This is all very well, but what does it tell us of memory? The answer is, nothing very much. The molecules of the brain, like those in the rest of our body, are changed completely many times over during our lifetime. The connections between nerve cells are broken and replaced perhaps thousands or millions of times. And yet our memories remain, we hope, intact.

To complicate matters further, Professor Rose also suspects that the way we remember changes in the transition from child to adult. Children's minds, he says, are more open. They see and hear "eidetically", meaning they re-

member in a pictorial form. This is lost in older life. A 30-year-old man has memories of being a 10-year-old child that are quite different from the way a 50-year-old man remembers being 30 — even though the time difference is the same.

We thus return to the brain as a filter of perceptions. Adults use their brains as much to get rid of experiences as to remember them. Whether we will ever really understand how it does this will remain conjecture for some time to come.

Professor Rose believes we should eventually learn the secrets of our own minds, but only by first looking at simpler forms of life. "In researching my chicks' memories, I can begin to make sense of my own," he writes — *The Independent*.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

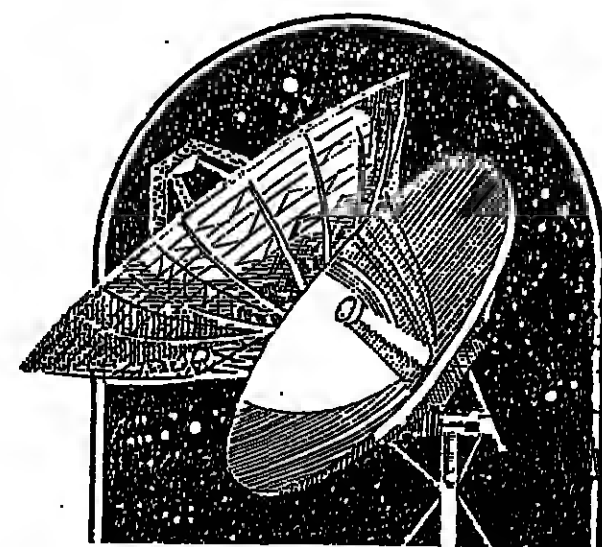
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The Amman Bank for Investments (ABI) has recently signed a licensing Agreement with ACT Kindie, the internationally Known software development firm, whereby ABI will acquire Kindie's Bank Master and Branch Power software systems in addition to other more specialized systems that would provide ABI with state of the art fully automated commercial and investment banking operations.

ABI will be shortly expediting a delegation of specialists to ACT Kindie head office in Dublin to be trained for the implementation of the agreement which eventually will enhance ABI's capacity to produce and market advanced banking services which ABI is known to deliver with care and responsibility.

U.S. president secures Japan's commitment to cut bulging deficit

TOKYO (AFP) — President Bill Clinton secured a commitment Saturday from Japan for a "highly significant decrease" in its snowballing current account surplus in exchange for the United States cutting its budget deficit, U.S. officials said.

Clinton administration officials said the United States also expected Japan to cut its current account surplus to less than two per cent of gross national product (GNP) under a new framework struck shortly before the president left for Seoul after a three-day Group of Seven (G-7) summit here.

Mr. Clinton said this was the "basic bargain" of the two-year "framework for a new economic partnership" between the world's two biggest economies.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who faces crucial elections in a week, said the agreement was "extremely important" not only for the United States and Japan, but also for the "maintaining and strengthening of the free trading system of the world."

The framework, which provides for talks between the leaders of the two countries every six months, sets out an ambitious agenda for talks on sectoral and structural issues, focussing on opening Japan's markets to more imports.

Future sectoral and structural talks will cover government procurement, especially in computers, supercomputers, satellites, medical technology and telecommunications. The talks will also cover automobile trade plus regulatory reforms in the fields of financial services including insurance, it said.

While it makes no mention of Washington's demand for numerical import targets, an idea pushed by the Clinton administration but strongly opposed by Japan, a joint statement said "tangible progress must be achieved."

However, Bowman Cutter, deputy director of Mr. Clinton's National Economic Council and the lead negotiator in the talks with Japan, said: "We have got explicit assurances that this is a framework by the government of Japan."

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers said the plan was to reduce the overall surplus, which reached a record \$45 billion with the United States last year, over a medium term of around "four or five years."

But Mr. Summers said the administration was also looking to cut the surplus "over the next few years" to less than two per cent of GNP, or around the same

level as its historical average over the past 20 years.

The former World Bank economist noted in a speech to Japanese economists in Tokyo last month that after falling to 1.5 per cent of GNP in 1987, the surplus was now expected to rebound to four per cent next year.

Progress will be evaluated, moreover, by half-yearly assessments based on criteria which are "either qualitative or quantitative or both as appropriate."

"For years we have had trade agreements that have failed to reduce our chronic trade deficits," Mr. Clinton told a hastily convened joint news conference with Mr. Miyazawa just before leaving for South Korea.

"Those agreements have not worked because they lacked a commitment to tangible results and they provided no way to measure success. This has caused resentment to build up on both sides, threatening our vital friendship," he pointed out.

Mr. Clinton warned, however, that while the "new approach" was aimed at "getting better results from better trade rules," there would still be "difficult" negotiations ahead. "We should have no illusions," he added.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Miyazawa agreed in Washington in April to

establish a new framework by July. But despite two rounds of talks and continued negotiations since Mr. Clinton's arrival here Tuesday, Tokyo had refused to yield to demands for import targets, seen by Washington as a crucial to opening Japanese markets.

Under the agreement, Japan agreed to pursue measures "to achieve over the medium term a highly significant decrease in its current account surplus," while promoting a "significant increase in global imports of goods and services, including from the United States," the joint statement said.

The framework also includes a common agenda on global cooperation on the environment, technology, human resources, populations and AIDS.

Meanwhile, in the first reaction to the agreement, EC ambassador to Tokyo Jean-Pierre Lenc expressed "some surprise" at seeing precise undertakings from Japan to a single country.

"If it is confirmed there are arrangements providing for market shares with sectoral targets for a given country, backed up by periodic monitoring, it is clear that that would be a worrying development for international trade," he said.

China raises interest rates to slow growth

BEIJING (R) — China announced Saturday it would raise interest rates for the second time this year in a bid to curb runaway economic growth as officials admitted the first rate rise had failed.

Xinhua News Agency said interest rates on deposits would rise by an average of 1.72 percentage points.

The rate for bank loans will rise by 1.38 percentage points, and bank deposit interest rates by 1.35 per cent, the agency said.

The new rates are effective from July 11. "The central bank's decision is designed to protect the interests of depositors and ensure a healthy development of the national economy," senior central banker Zhou Zhengqing told state television.

Interest rates for long-term savings accounts including three-year, five-year and eight-year time deposits, will be pegged to inflation, Xinhua said.

"The rise will lift the deposit interest rate for terms of one year to 10.98 per cent from the current 9.18 per cent," the agency said.

Analysts had anticipated the latest interest rate rise, heralded by a 16-point austerity plan introduced by the newly-appointed

central bank director Zhu Rongji last week.

Mr. Zhu, an economic expert and a vice premier, was appointed July 2 and swung into action to untangle the miasma of economic and financial problems China faces.

The belt-tightening measures included raising interest rates from this month, calling in speculative loans and cutting government spending by 20 per cent.

They are aimed at bringing economic growth down from the yearly 14 per cent recorded in the first five months to about 10 per cent for all 1993.

Analysts said the measures showed China was intent on curbing speculation in stocks, real estate and other get-rich-quick schemes in an attempt to redirect funding to needed projects.

The first interest rate rise came in mid-May when the People's Bank of China put up rates by an average 2.18 percentage points for bank loans.

Those rate hikes were considered by economists to be too modest to curb economic growth which was running at dangerously high levels.

Central banker Zhou told the television that the first interest rate rise in May was well-

received, but admitted it was not enough to curb inflation.

"The general public reacted positively to the first interest rate rise, and there has been an increase in bank savings," he said. "However, the rise proved not big enough as prices kept rising."

Xinhua quoted an unidentified senior banker as saying the central bank would continue to give preferential interest rates on loans for the purchase of grain, cotton and edible oil as well as for energy, transportation and infrastructure projects. He did not give details.

State radio Saturday said Vice Premier Zhu ordered 10 investigative teams to fan out throughout 20 provinces to oversee banks and financial institutions to ensure compliance with his plan.

"This is necessary to ensure macro-control over the economy," Mr. Zhu was quoted as telling a State Council (parliament) meeting Saturday.

In new evidence of overheating, industrial production in China soared a year-on-year 25.1 per cent in the first half of 1993, the China Daily reported Friday.

After a full year of 20 per cent annual growth each month, the rate is only increasing. Industrial growth in June hit a record year-on-year 30.2 per cent, the newspaper said.

Major upgrades British economic growth

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major Friday predicted Britain's economy would grow more strongly than economic previous forecasts suggested this year.

In a radio interview, Mr. Major projected economic growth of between 1.5 and 1.75 per cent in 1993, higher than a 1.25 per cent forecast issued by the treasury in the March budget.

The message of stronger growth from the Britain government comes after a string of leading independent economists have upgraded their growth forecasts for the economy this year.

"We are likely to have growth this year of 1.5 or 1.75 per cent and around 3.0 per cent next year, back to trend growth," Mr. Major said in Tokyo.

But his forecast, issued without warning or ceremony, is likely to cause some consternation in the treasury, which is very particular about the compilation and timing of new economic forecasts.

"It is going over the heads of the chancellor and his officials and is bad form in that sense. But the actual numbers should be fairly consistent with the treasury's internal forecasts," said Adam Cole, economist at Janssen Capele.

Mr. Major, in an upbeat message, portrayed Britain as the one bright spot in Europe.

Russia, Ukraine and Belarus agree economic union

MOSCOW (R) — The three former Soviet republics of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus agreed Saturday to form an economic union in a bid to repair links shattered by the collapse of the Soviet Union.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the prime ministers of the three nations, meeting in a residence outside Moscow, had officially agreed on urgent measures to integrate their economies.

They instructed experts to come up with a treaty for signing by Sept. 1 this year. The premiers did not reveal details of Saturday's agreement.

"For our nations the signing of this agreement ... will be an

historic event," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said after the signing. "We are moving forward, integrating the economies of our countries in every way."

The collapse of the Soviet Union into 15 independent republics in late 1991 destroyed many economic links built up over decades and plunged most of the new states into crisis.

"At last common sense has prevailed," said Belarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin said the union would be open to any country which did not join any other economic unions or alliances.

French parliamentarians approve privatisation

PARIS (AFP) — French ministers were free to press ahead with a massive programme to privatise 21 state companies, including some of the pillars of the French economy, following a vote Friday.

The French centre-right government, which came to power at the end of March, sees the programme as the foundation of its policies to reduce state debts and boost the economy out of recession.

It is linked to a huge state bond issue, which is now underway in anticipation of receipts from privatisation.

The privatisation bill has passed easily by the conservative majority in the national assembly, with 423 deputies of the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic and the Union for French Democracy voting in favour.

Ninety deputies from the opposition socialist and communist parties voted against.

With the final hurdle now be-

hind it, the government can press ahead with its programme to sell companies such as the Renault car manufacturer and Air France. It hopes to raise a total of 400 billion francs (\$70.2 billion), and about 40 billion francs this year.

The sale will be spread over several years, beginning in the autumn with two industrial giants, the oil group Elf-Agip and chemicals heavyweights Rhone-Poulenc, the industry ministry indicated.

European privatisations, particularly in France, Italy and Spain, are expected to be worth \$100 billion to \$150 billion in the next five years, according to a study by the American investment bank Morgan Stanley in June, so there is a need to stagger sales because of the danger of supply exceeding demand.

The privatisation law has a clause whereby foreigners outside the European Community will not be allowed to hold more than 20 per cent of capital of a priva-

tised company when it is first put on the market, a provisional protection as shares will later be traded freely.

Not for sale are state public service monopolies such as the EDF electricity company and SNCF, the French railways, nor ultra-sensitive companies in the defence sector, like GIAT-Industries, which makes the Leclerc tank.

The list includes major banks like the Banque National de Paris and Credit Lyonnais, companies at the forefront of technology like Aerospatiale and France's last steelmaker Usinor-Saciolor and the last publicly-owned electronics manufacturer Thomson S.A.

But it also includes companies in serious difficulties, like the computer group Bull, which announced it was slashing 6,500 jobs this week, and Air France.

Also on the list is the tobacco company SEITA, which manufactures Gauloise cigarettes. The most controversial priva-

tisation is the sale of the Renault, which more than any other company reflects France's economic, social and political history since 1945.

Nationalised in 1945 as a sanction against Louis Renault because he collaborated with the Germans during World War II, it became a showcase for French industry and invention over the years.

Its status looked secure. But in the 1980s it made disastrous losses. A tough chief executive, Georges Besse, was brought in as president in 1985. But he has assassinated the following year by the terrorist group Action Directe.

But he had laid the groundwork for his successor, Raymond Levy, who turned the company around, slimmed it down and restored its profitability, so that by 1992 it has back in the world class of automakers.

Uzbekistan drafts plan to draw foreign investment

TASHKENT (R) — Uzbekistan, smarting at the success of its neighbour and rival Kazakhstan, has drawn up a programme to attract more foreign investment to Central Asia's most populous state.

A senior government official said the programme identified priority areas of the former Soviet republic's economy eligi-

ble for five-year tax holidays — during which no taxes need be paid — and other preferential investment terms.

Alisher Akhundjanov, head of foreign investment policy at the ministry of foreign economic relations, also said that Uzbekistan was establishing gold and hard currency reserves in European banks to guarantee foreign in-

vestments.

"Our previous programme was a little old," Mr. Akhundjanov said. "When we tried to operate this programme with foreign companies, they said it was outdated and contradicted their business philosophy," he told Reuters.

Uzbekistan, which has a population of 22 million, has attracted less foreign investment since it became independent from the former Soviet Union in 1991 than its neighbour Kazakhstan.

Mr. Akhundjanov said that about \$250 million had been invested in Uzbekistan by foreigners to date, mainly in gold mining, vehicle manufacturing and cotton processing projects.

Kazakhstan, mainly through major investments in its promising oil and gas sector, is gaining a reputation as Central Asia's most vibrant market.

Foreign diplomats here say rivalry runs high between the two countries, with Uzbekistan feeling that it is losing out.

The five-year tax holiday for investment in priority sectors was decreed by Uzbek President Islam Karimov a year ago but because these priority sectors had not been officially identified, the decree had little effect.

The new programme, which is to list specific projects as well as sector, identifies agriculture, energy, mining and tourism as the areas of the economy qualifying for preferential investor treatment.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 11, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A triple Moon Square and Sun opposition signals a strong caution as even close friends or associates could lead you in the wrong direction, unintentionally. Be careful with that new acquaintance who wants more time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Live your finest tenets this morning instead of engaging in some worldly activities which could be disappointing, later join outside associate as discussions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) New ideas would not be beneficial for you now but being direct in finding out what your mate expects, of you yields good results, then build up your wealth.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An outside associate can be very helpful to you this morning even though a close associate can do what confuses you, later enjoy a recreation that lifts your spirits.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A calculating outsider can cause you some muddled thinking early so avoid and do usual Sunday pursuits while tonight is fine for any home problems.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get away from usual chores and be with proven congenial companions after which you can get out in the world and see and be with characters.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Avoid going off on some enter-

tainment in the morning and put your time in making your home more attractive, tonight think how you can increase present assets.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the moment for you to sidestep a condition you do not like at home and instead be off to places that attract you; tonight go after personal aims.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use much care in motion to avoid a poor driver and study financial structure while in the evening you are able to do what will please your mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into long desired goals in the morning and don't get involved in material activities while tonight you can make progress in gaining intimate desires.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) An advisor can cause you in the way is best for you early in the day and don't try to force personal wishes while tonight you can plan worldly activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 19) A secret worry should be dropped by you early while you a pleasant morning while tonight be off to new situations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An older friend can be a drag on you in the morning when the outside world is more advantageous for you while tonight you can be happy with your mate.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chew

ACROSS

- 1 This place
- 5 Was priced at
- 9 Genghis
- 14 Is a sea dance
- 15 Contrary one
- 16 Tehran native
- 17 Eye part
- 18 Benevolent, n.g.
- 19 Summer TV fare
- 20 Type of peach
- 22 Unlucky
- 23 Bank employee
- 24 Affair of honor
- 26 Part of n.b.
- 29 Traps
- 30 Head cooks
- 37 n.
- 39 Zola novel
- 40 Army chaplain
- 41 Canine base
- 43 Fish
- 43 It's a tin in
- 44 Name word
- 45 Preter
- 46 Encasement
- 48 Soliloquy start
- 50 Brille
- 52 Most recent
- 57 Volcanic blind
- 60 Old-time saloon
- 61 Author
- 62 Theater awards
- 64 CWTW mansion
- 65 Dull person
- 66 White poplar
- 67 Muslim deity
- 68 Ancient Asian land
- 69 Throw in the
- 70 Rodeo
- 71 Identical

DOWN

- 1 George gears
- 2 Peter of
- 3 Arabian gazelle
- 4 City on the Rhine
- 5 Cuban leader
- 6 Aware of
- 7 Laurel
- 8 Propose
- 9 USAF personnel
- 10 Independent
- 11 Sculls
- 12 Borden
- 13 Wine
- 21 Perceive
- 25 Employ
- 27 Tropical food
- 28 Orca
- 30 -ave
- 31 Son of Seth
- 32 Infamous
- 33 Some
- 34 Woody's
- 35 Actress
- 36 Type of
- 37 Swimming race
- 38 Come Jay
- 42 Pulsion
- 44 Sene
- 47 Ship
- 49 Indistinct
- 51 The morning
- 52 Hollow cylinders
- 54 Day
- 56 Hit the road!
- 56 Topic of discourse
- 57 RBL, e.g.
- 58 Timber wolf
- 59 Once again
- 61 Hindu daffod
- 62 Clasp of music

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SCAR DAIRY PARK
TARDY
AINTY AINTE
FRET NIN
FOREVER YOUNG
STARE KNURLED
CLUB THE YOUNGER
CLAY HIGHER
SPONSOR FOR
YOUNGATHART
TEEMS RUT SHUR
AINTY SHADE TONT
ABAY BUTTER PANTS

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SLANT MINOR FACIAL REBUKE
Answer: What the math genius with small kids knew all about—FORMULAS

Clinton threatens U.S. action if N. Korea leaves nuclear pact

SEOUL (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton Saturday warned North Korea the United States will take punitive steps — most likely an economic embargo — if it withdraws from a treaty aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Clinton met South Korean Kim Young-Sam for talks that focused on the possible withdrawal by North Korea from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which requires participants to open their nuclear sites to outside inspection.

He also vowed that there will be no reduction in the size of U.S. forces in the region as long as North Korea poses a danger and told the nation's National Assembly that "our troops will stay here as long as the Korean people want them here."

Within hours after he arrived in South Korea following an economic summit in Japan, Mr. Clinton sternly warned that he would not tolerate a nuclear threat from North Korea.

"North Korea must understand our intentions," Mr. Clinton told the Assembly. "We are seeking to prevent aggression, not to initiate it."

"As long as North Korea abides by the U.N. charter and

international non-proliferation commitments, it has nothing to fear," he said.

Although Mr. Clinton did not mention specific steps the United States might take against North Korea, administration officials said actions under consideration include economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

During an exchange with reporters after the talks with Mr. Kim, Mr. Clinton said the possible withdrawal "is of great concern not only to the United States and the Republic of Korea, but to all in this region."

"We are resolute to take additional steps if they are required," said Mr. Clinton, who has stressed U.S. determination to provide security to the Pacific region during his trip to Japan and South Korea.

The United States resumes talks with Pyongyang on July 14 in a bid to persuade them to continue honouring the international treaty that went into force in 1970. The pact requires inspections of nuclear sites to ensure they are not being used for weapons development.

"The key issue is inspections," said a senior U.S. official accompanying Mr. Clinton to Korea.

Asked if the United States was using a carrot-and-stick strategy towards North Korea, the official said: "The potential stick would be U.N. sanctions — economic sanctions."

U.S. officials are concerned that North Korea's actions have been prompted by efforts to hide evidence of a nuclear weapons programme.

"No spectre hangs over this region more darkly than the danger of nuclear proliferation," Mr. Clinton told the National Assembly.

Saying that nearly 160 nations have signed the nuclear treaty, Mr. Clinton said it was "the most universally supported treaty in all history."

He said North Korea's threat to withdraw represented the first time any nation has considered abandoning the accord. "We urge North Korea to reaffirm its commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty," Mr. Clinton said.

The U.S. president said there would be no reduction in America's 37,000 troops in South Korea "as long as there is any outstanding question of security regarding this issue" of nuclear arms.

Mr. Clinton told reporters he believes "China can play a constructive role" in trying to persuade North Korea to honour the treaty. Peking is one of the few governments in the world that has ties with North Korea.

U.S. officials believe China has been exerting a positive influence on North Korea not to withdraw from the nuclear treaty.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 South Korean farmers and students rallied at a downtown cathedral hours after the arrival of President Clinton here Saturday to protest U.S. pressure on Seoul to open up its closed rice market.

The protesters sat outside the Yongdong Roman Catholic Cathedral chanting slogans and passing out copies of an open letter addressed to Mr. Clinton demanding that Washington recognise South Korea's right to rice self-sufficiency.

The colourfully dressed farmers, some with their wives and children, then set off on a two kilometre march through the streets to the city's Pagoda Park. Riot police stood at a distance but did not try to stop them, witnesses said.



Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic collapses after waving to supporters from the Belgrade clinic window Friday after the announcement of his release from detention (AFP photo)

U.S. welcomes release of Serbian opposition leader

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States welcomed the release of Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic and his wife Danica but said it was worried about the dissident's health.

The Draskovics were released Friday on orders from Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic after doctors said Vuk Draskovic's health was deteriorating.

Mr. Draskovic, 47, was reportedly beaten during and after his arrest on June 2 following a violent anti-government demonstration, and had begun a hunger strike last week at the clinic where he and his wife were being detained.

In a statement released Friday, the State Department said it welcomed the couple's release "with great relief."

But condemning what it called police brutality and abuse during his detention, the department added: "We can only hope that Mr. Draskovic will recover fully from this inhumane treatment, and we look forward to his return to vigorous participation in the political life of his country."

Demonstrations for Mr. Draskovic which were due to be held Saturday throughout Serbia have

been called off by organisers, the agency Tanjug said.

The news came after Mr. Draskovic and his wife were freed.

The Serb Democratic Movement (DEPOS) which includes Mr. Draskovic's Serbian Renewal Movement said in a statement: "After the decision by President Slobodan Milosevic to pardon Vuk and Danica Draskovic the presidency of DEPOS has decided to call off the demonstrations set for July 10."

But DEPOS rejected accusations made by Mr. Milosevic against the opposition.

Announcing his decision to free the couple, Mr. Milosevic declared: "Though I hold Vuk Draskovic personally responsible for the events on June 1, and I believe the Serbian people also hold him responsible, my conviction is that these events must not serve the anti-Serb campaign being conducted by our enemies."

Mr. Draskovic, who went on hunger strike to secure his release, and his wife are to remain in the neuro-surgical hospital in Belgrade on doctors' advice in order to recover, before being reunited with their family.

Bosnian leaders expected to reject partition

ZAGREB (R) — The main body of Bosnia's collective presidency arrived in Zagreb Saturday and were expected to tell international peace envoys they have rejected a plan for the three-way ethnic partition of their country.

"We will tell them (the mediators) we want to go back to the London conference and stick to the basic principles of that conference," Muslim Vice President Ejup Ganic told Reuters.

Mr. Ganic and five other members flew into Zagreb on a U.N. military plane and were whisked away to meet three other members already in the Croatian capital ahead of talks with mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

The presidency was expected to ratify the unanimous decision of seven members in Sarajevo Friday to reject a Serbo-Croat plan to divide Bosnia into three mini-states.

"The ethnic division of Bosnia has been refused," Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic told reporters Friday, adding that he would stay behind in Sarajevo because of "urgent business."

"The presidency has accepted the proposal according to which Bosnia-Herzegovina would be constituted according to a federal state," he added.

Mr. Stoltenberg, who flew into Zagreb to join Lord Owen at the meeting with the presidency Saturday afternoon, has said the alternative to negotiations is intensified war.

It was not clear what time the presidency would meet the international mediators. Mr. Ganic did not say what he expected the next step would be after their talks.

Bosnian Serbs and Croats have threatened a two-way division of Bosnia if the Muslims fail to accept the plan.

Mr. Izetbegovic also proposed reconvening the London conference on Bosnia, saying that the government's conditions for participating were a complete ceasefire and free passage of humanitarian convoys.

He rejected suggestions that the Muslim-led Bosnian army was on its last legs after 15 months of civil war, saying: "The fight is only finished once you capitulate."

English teacher eyes life as a millionaire

FOND DU LAC, Wisconsin (AFP) — A 30-year-old English teacher apparently netted the biggest lottery jackpot in U.S. history — and rushed off to Florida after finding out he had won \$111 million. Leslie Robins' parents confirmed a report in The Reporter of Fond Du Lac that their son apparently had drawn the lone grand-prize winning ticket. The newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, said Mr. Robins and his fiancée left town to avoid reporters. The only ticket to match all the numbers in the Powerball game, played in 14 states and the District of Columbia, was bought at Sundry Food Store-South in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, according to the state's lottery office. The winner has 180 days to claim the prize. "I figure they have their reasons and are trying to step back and take a couple of deep breaths before they step forward and do something quite remarkable," said state lottery spokesman Steven Madsen. Joe Sagen, a friend of Mr. Robins, said they went to a bar after the drawing to celebrate — adding that Mr. Robins accidentally left his wallet — with the ticket in it — in Mr. Sagen's car until the next morning, when he collected it. "We talked about ideas and what he wants to do," Mr. Sagen said. "He's a generous guy. He will make the right decisions."

Old masters sell for record prices

LONDON (R) — A sale of old masters paintings produced record prices for three artists, confirming a demand for traditional painters and quality works. Christie's auction house said an anonymous buyer paid £705,500 (\$1.05 million) for Winter Landscape by Salomon Van Ruysdael, a cousin of the master Jacob Van Ruysdael. Wood Landscape With Diana And Actaeon fetched £551,500 (\$817,300) and Antonio Joli's Castel Sant' Angelo And Ponte Sant' Angelo sold for £441,500 (\$654,300). "This traditional area of the market appeals to collectors rather than investors," said a spokeswoman for Christie's. "The sale reaffirms an interest in traditional artists and quality." Canaletto's The Bacino Di St. Marco, although not a record, brought in the highest price at £716,500 (\$1.06 million).

Rome's Via Veneto to become pedestrian zone

ROME (R) — Rome's Via Veneto, the glittering backdrop for director Federico Fellini's 1966 film La Dolce Vita, and once the playground for paparazzi in search of movie idols, will be permanently closed to traffic from Aug. 1. "Closing the street is a first step toward improving life in Rome," said Alessandro Voci, a city official. The avenue, whose cafes once hosted film stars Marcello Mastroianni and Brigitte Bardot, is now choked by traffic and offers few places to sip coffee. It is also notorious as a promenade in late night hours for transvestite prostitutes. Officials said they planned to make the street more sympathetic to visitors by planting flower beds, building park benches and giving cafes more space for their tables.

Falling body may have been Russian stowaway — police

PARIS (AP) — A man believed to have fallen from an airplane into a couple's garden may have been a Russian stowaway, police reported. Investigators found 55 Russian rubles on the body, their first major clue toward identifying the man who fell into Bernard and Denise Bisson's yard Thursday in Eaubonne, a Paris suburb. Police noted that an Air France flight between Moscow and Paris flew over Eaubonne about 11:30 a.m., the same time that Mrs. Bisson said she heard a huge thud outside and her telephone went dead. Glancing outside, she found tree branches broken, telephone lines torn down and a male body imbedded about 15 centimetres into her lawn. Police said that they were certain that the man was a stowaway aboard a flight coming into Charles-De-Gaulle International Airport. The Bisson home lies along an approach path. "It's the only possible hypothesis," said an investigator on condition of anonymity. The man, described as tanned, about 35 and medium-weight, was lightly dressed. He carried the rubles, but no identification papers. Police believe he was already likely dead from sub-zero atmospheric temperatures when he presumably fell from a landing compartment when the wheel-doors opened. The body would have fallen at least 800 metres, the average altitude for a landing descent, police said.

Yeltsin attacks parliament as well as regions

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Saturday attacked the Russian parliament for claiming the Ukrainian naval port of Sevastopol, and Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow compared the move to the shot that triggered World War I.

The conservative parliament voted overwhelmingly Friday to proclaim Sevastopol — base of the Black Sea Fleet — as Russian property and told the Ukrainian government to remove troops from the area.

The vote threatened to damage relations between Russia and Ukraine who, after months of squabbling over what to do with the fleet, had finally agreed to divide the force equally by 1995.

"I feel ashamed about this decision," ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling reporters in the central Siberian city of Irkutsk as he waited for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to arrive for two days of talks near Lake Baikal.

"The problems of the Black Sea Fleet and the town where it is based must be solved both calmly and gradually," he said. "Otherwise, what do you want me to do — fight with Ukraine?"

Mr. Yeltsin, who wields executive power in Russia, is involved in a power struggle with parliament and is unlikely to pay the resolution much attention.

But a fresh quarrel with Ukraine would be an unwelcome distraction as he struggles to draw up a new constitution for the country which would give him considerably more power.

The vote sparked a predictably angry response from Ukraine.

Volodymyr Kryzhanovskiy, Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow, told TASS Saturday that the resolution could be compared to "Gavrilo Princip's shot in Sarajevo."

Princip, a Serbian revolutionary student, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, triggering World War I.

TASS said Mr. Yeltsin also sharply criticised moves by three major Russian regions — Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk and the far eastern Primorsky Krai — to declare themselves republics.

Mr. Yeltsin needs the support of regional leaders to give final approval to a new constitution which would cut back parliament's powers while boosting his own.

But some of the richer regions, most of which are extremely powerful, are now refusing to sign until they are granted the same law-making rights as the country's 20 ethnic republics.

The regions say their protest is primarily financial and in response to what they describe as Moscow's neglect of their economic rights.

Russia's government said Friday it would sack the leader of Sverdlovsk region for his insubordination.

Mr. Yeltsin convened a special Constitutional Assembly last month to draw up the draft of the new constitution. The body is due to hold its final plenary session Monday.

In Kiev, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk Friday denounced as illegal the "Moscow parliament's claim to Sevastopol as Russian property and said it threatened stability throughout the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Kravchuk called on the international community to reject the resolution, approved without a single dissenting vote, and

pledged Ukraine would react "appropriately."

"This decision violates all international norms and has no legal force, in accordance with the Helsinki and other accords," Mr. Kravchuk said on television after an emergency meeting with top Ukrainian leaders.

"Ukraine rejects it as it is at variance with the interests of the Ukrainian people and violates our territorial integrity."

The United States Saturday criticised the Russian parliament's claim to Sevastopol, saying the port city was an integral part of the Ukraine.

"(Ukrainian President Leonid) Kravchuk has made clear his intention concerning good bilateral relations with Russia," said a statement issued by U.S. Ambassador Roman Popadiuk. "This is no time for the Russian parliament to be attempting to strain that relationship. Sevastopol is an integral part of Ukraine."

Mr. Popadiuk's statement, delivered to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, was issued after President Boris Yeltsin disowned the action of his conservative parliament.

Georgia reports successes against Abkhaz rebels

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgia said Saturday that its forces had mounted a successful counter-attack against rebels in the breakaway region of Abkhazia overnight, inflicting heavy losses.

A Defence Ministry statement said Georgian troops had retaken the northern town of Tamysh after heavy fighting in which 100 Abkhaz rebels were killed and 200 wounded.

The troops also seized part of the main road running through the Black Sea region. "About 20 militants surrendered. We also captured two tanks and two armoured cars,"

said the statement. Fighting was continuing in several places north of Tamysh Saturday, it reported.

The Abkhaz side flatly denied it had lost any territory, saying its troops had managed to repulse the attacks and were still in charge of the road.

Georgia Tuesday declared martial law in the province, where hundreds of people have been killed since government troops were sent in last August to suppress nationalist demands for more autonomy.

The Defence Ministry statement also said Abkhaz forces had shelled Sukhumi overnight before trying to seize heights around the town and land a commando force in two boats.

The attacks failed with the loss of around 60 fighters. Georgian troops also shot down a Sukhoi SU-27 fighter-bomber belonging to the Abkhaz side which had been trying to attack a hospital in the regional capital Sukhumi, the statement said.

But the Abkhaz Defence Ministry said its troops had managed to repulse the Georgian attacks and had recaptured the northern village of Shroma overnight.

"Fierce battles are continuing in eastern Abkhazia," said a ministry statement carried by Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency.

The U.N. Security Council Friday unanimously approved dispatching 50 military observers to Georgia once a ceasefire paves the way for the first U.N. peacekeeping venture in the former Soviet Union.

The resolution asks that U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali send an envoy to help establish the ceasefire and begin making preparations for the 50 observers.

'Romanov riddle' solved, Anastasia mystery remains

LONDON (R) — Scientists have solved history's 75-year-old "Romanov riddle" by identifying the bones of the murdered Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family but they have left open a mystery over his daughter Anastasia.

British genetic scientists, making comparisons with blood from Queen Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip, a relative of the Russian royals, said Friday they were "98.5 per cent" sure that bones found in a forest near the Urals city of Ekaterinburg were those of the Romanovs.

The DNA tests solve what has been called one of the 20th century's biggest mysteries — what happened to Russia's last sovereign after he was taken prisoner by Bolsheviks in 1918 at the start of the Communist era.

Although science has confirmed the fate of the Tsar, his wife and three of their five children, the question of whether their youngest daughter Anastasia or son Alexei escaped the slaughter remains unanswered.

Alexei and one of his sisters — scientists could not determine which one — were not accounted for among the bones found in the shallow burial pit in eastern Russia two years ago.

British newspapers printed front-page pictures of Anastasia Saturday and mulled over the possibility that a woman called Anna Anderson, who insisted she was the Tsar's youngest daughter, might just have been Anastasia after all.

Anderson was so convinced of



File picture dated 1914 of Czar Nicholas II with his wife, Czarina Alexandra (back right), Prince Alexei (2nd right) and the Czar's four daughters.

her parentage that she brought a German lawsuit, ultimately unsuccessful, to have herself recognised as the Romanov heiress. When she died in 1984 she left locks of hair which could be tested.

Another royal claim rests on the notion that the Tsar's daughter Maria evaded the firing squad. A man in Spain, calling himself Prince Alexei, says he is her son.

One theory published in 1989 by a military historian holds that the Tsar's daughter Tania was rescued by air from Ekaterinburg

and lived in anonymous exile in Europe. The author, Michael O'Connell, said his version of events was based on British secret service records.

Contemporary accounts suggest a grimmer explanation for the missing bones — that the bodies of Alexei and Anastasia were buried while the others were buried after the family was shot and bayoneted by its Bolshevik guards. The scientists tested the

Ekaterinburg bones for the same DNA pattern handed down through the female line to Prince Philip, whose grandmother Princess Victoria of Hesse was a sister of the Tsarina Alexandra.

They also held out the possibility that the pretenders' claims will be put to the DNA test.

"That possibility is under discussion," said Janet Thompson, director-general of Britain's Forensic Science Service, which carried out the tests on the Romanov bones.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CSCE mission arrives in Baku

MOSCOW (AFP) — A CSCE mission on the war-torn enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh led by Mario Raffalli arrived Saturday in Baku for talks with Azerbaijan leader Geidar Aliyev, the agency Interfax said. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) mission — called the Minsh group — is then due to go to Yerevan in Armenia, as well as to Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijan town of Agdam virtually under siege by Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenia forces. The CSCE is trying to enforce a peace plan which has been accepted by all the parties in the conflict. Under the plan a ceasefire would be called, ethnic Armenia forces would withdraw from the territory they have occupied outside Nagorno-Karabakh and negotiations would start on ending the war. The conflict in the Armenian-populated enclave broke out in 1988, and has now spread into southern and western Azerbaijan. It is the longest running conflict in the former Soviet Union.

N. Korean team leaves for Geneva

TOKYO (R) — A North Korean delegation, headed by First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-Ju, left Pyongyang Saturday for Geneva to attend talks with the United States, the official Korean Central News Agency said. The North's chief delegate and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci are due to resume negotiations Wednesday in Geneva in an effort to settle a dispute over Pyongyang's refusal to allow inspections of its suspected nuclear sites.

N. Ireland bomb attempts foiled

BELFAST (R) — The British army thwarted a car bomb attack close to Belfast's City Hall and defused another car bomb in the east of the city, police said Saturday. Police also said they fired plastic bullets at youths rioting in Portadown, southwest of Belfast. The attempted bombings appeared to be the latest in a series of strikes by the Irish Republics hush this week. The bomb found in a stolen taxi near the City Hall Friday night contained around 300 lb (350 kg) of explosives and was made safe. The army also defused a 500 lb (225 kg) bomb planted in a stolen car early Friday outside a hotel in East Belfast. That bomb was near the gates of Stormont Castle, a symbol of British rule in Northern Ireland and a prime target of IRA guerrillas.

Liberia peace talks open in Geneva

GENEVA (AFP) — Peace talks to end the civil war in Liberia opened at the United Nations buildings here Saturday in the presence of mediators from the U.N. and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The talks to end the three-and-a-half year conflict in the devastated West African nation are being attended by all the main parties involved, and it is the first time that the U.N. and the OAU have joined the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the search for a peace settlement. U.N. officials said the talks, expected to last about one week, were aimed at "reducing tensions and establishing an atmosphere of trust," so that the Yamoussoukro Peace Accord signed in Ivory Coast last October could be implemented.

Miyazawa to step down when party decides

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, after winding up his duties as the Group of Seven summit host, said Saturday he was prepared to step down after July 18 general elections if requested by the ruling party. "It's up to the decision of party members," Mr. Miyazawa told Japanese reporters, according to Kyodo News Agency. "I was elected party president by the members and will continue in this post as long as I have their support," he said. "If I don't have it, well then naturally I'm out." Mr. Miyazawa was speaking in his capacity as president of the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party, a post that brings with it the premiership because of the LDP's lower house majority.

Clinton, Yeltsin pledge further effort to boost ties

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton promised Boris Yeltsin on Saturday that he would sweep away the last vestiges of cold war of trade barriers between the United States and Russia, which he described as "much more alike" now than ever before.

Mr. Clinton also praised his "remarkable" relationship with Mr. Yeltsin and the Russian president said that "our partnership and our friendship is strengthening day by day."

Their breakfast meeting was the first since the Russian-U.S. April summit in Vancouver and Mr. Yeltsin's victory in a crucial referendum on his power and reforms that same month.

Mr. Clinton praised Mr. Yeltsin's bold steps to create a new constitution, which paved the way for billions of dollars U.S.-sponsored economic assistance from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations that met in Tokyo this week.

Acknowledging that the two "still have some differences," Mr. Clinton said: "We represent two great countries that are now very much more alike than they have ever been in their history."

Those differences include Russia's discontent over continued Western trade restrictions and

U.S. concern over Russian sales of missile technology to India and other countries.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin have a lot staked on one another and have had an intense relationship from the beginning.

During this visit, Mr. Clinton several times reached out to Mr. Yeltsin, wrapping him in a one-armed embrace or clasping his hand at the end of their joint news conference.

Both leaders want to keep the momentum of good relations going. Mr. Clinton said he had accepted an invitation to visit Russia, probably this year.

Mr. Clinton also appeared optimistic when asked whether Russia had agreed to stop missile technology sales — a pet project of the powerful Defence Ministry.

The president said talks were continuing "intensely and immediately," and an aide said an announcement was likely on Thursday in Washington.

One of Mr. Yeltsin's main objectives in Tokyo was to persuade the West to lift trade restrictions left over from the cold war, when economic pressure was used to punish Russia for its political behaviour. But he came away from the economic summit disappointed by the response.

Mr. Clinton, however, offered Mr. Yeltsin fresh assurances, saying he had been working with Congress to eliminate "obsolete" could war barriers that still impede scientific, cultural and other contacts with Russia.

"We have compiled quite a long list of them that we think cannot be justified anymore," he said. "And there is a strong base of support in both political parties in the United States Congress to remove those laws."

On another issue, the two leaders spoke of prodigious Christian efforts to give up its nuclear weapons for dismantling, though the parliament in Kiev has been unwilling to part with the arms.

At their annual summit, Mr. Clinton and the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan endorsed a \$28.4 billion aid package for Russia that had been assembled in April. Then added \$3 billion to help finance the conversion of large state-run enterprises to private hands.

As an example of the new partnership, Mr. Clinton noted that Mr. Yeltsin's wife had an interest in dental care, and the United States had arranged to deliver surplus military equipment to set up two dental clinics in Moscow.



STATE OF ALERT: Israeli gunners prepare themselves on top of their artillery on the border with Lebanon as tension mounted Saturday after five Israeli soldiers were killed in resistance attacks in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Arabs and Israelis must show they want peace — Christopher

TOKYO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday renewed efforts to boost stalled Middle East peace talks, saying it was time for Arabs and Israelis to show that they really care about reaching a settlement.

In an interview with American reporters, he said he would be "surprised" if he did not make a trip to the Middle East in the next two months but that would depend on the results of consultations underway in the region by U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and others.

"I think we've reached a point where the United States needs to be active because the process seems to be either slowed down or stalemated," Mr. Christopher said.

"We're testing at the present time whether the parties really want us to make the commitment of time and energy," he said, adding: "I think it's up to them to show sufficient flexibility to show that they care enough to justify our time and energy and commitment."

The 10th round of Middle East peace talks ended earlier this month on a gloomy note, with Palestinians questioning the U.S. stand on Jerusalem and Israel faulting an American document aimed at identifying long-simmering differences.

The Clinton administration, openly dissatisfied with the pace of these negotiations, sent Mr. Ross to the Middle East and Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian — who will become ambassador to Israel at year's end — to try to revive the momentum.

Mr. Christopher said he had not yet received a readout of Mr. Ross's trip and did not expect any decisive results at least for several days.

"There will be careful probing with all the players in the Middle East," he said.

Asked about his own plans for a trip to the region, Mr. Chris-

topher said: "That depends almost completely on the results of the conversations (now underway). I would be surprised if Labour Day (Sept. 6) came and went without my having travelled out there but I can't tell you exactly when."

Mr. Christopher's predecessor, James Baker, made repeated trips to the Middle East to get the first face-to-face Arab-Israeli talks started with the October 1991 peace conference in Madrid and subsequently to keep them going.

With this backdrop and the administration's promise to the peace process, there has been frequent speculation about when Mr. Christopher might make a trip.

He stressed, however, that the Ross-Djerejian missions represent a very strong U.S. commitment to try and get the parties moving and begin to resolve serious substantive issues.

"We want to use our efforts... with a strong role as an honest broker to get them to face the question as to whether they are interested in the peace process and if they are, won't they get about narrowing the differences," he added.

'No U.S.-PLO dialogue'

State Department spokesman John S. "Friday the U.S. East... in the Middle East... to meet with any Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials."

"What I... if you are Ambassador Ross... members of the peace team are in (occupied) Jerusalem where they're consulting with the Israeli leadership and with Palestinians," Mr. Snyder told reporters. "We don't have a dialogue with the PLO; I can tell you that. I find it inconceivable that Dennis Ross would be meeting with the PLO because we don't have a dialogue."

Reminded that Russia has a dialogue with the PLO and it is a

co-sponsor in the peace talks, and asked whether the Russians review their contacts with the PLO with the U.S. vis-a-vis the peace talks, Mr. Snyder said: "We certainly have extensive discussions with the co-sponsors on the talks. That one topic is covered, but we certainly do talk to them extensively about the talks."

Asked whether Russia urged the U.S. to open a dialogue with the PLO, Mr. Snyder replied: "I don't know."

Arafat reaffirms stand

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Friday urged the United States to withdraw its proposals for spurring the Israeli-Arab peace process, saying that they were unfair, the Palestinian Wafa news agency reported.

Wafa also quoted Mr. Arafat at urging the other Arab delegations to support the Palestinians' stand.

Mr. Arafat made his remark in a monthly radio address marking the anniversary of the start of the Palestinian uprising. The revolt began in December 1987, and Mr. Arafat said it would continue until victory over "the tyrant of our time."

"The American paper blows away the basic rules of the peace process and leads the negotiations nowhere," Mr. Arafat said.

He called for the American paper to be put aside "because it makes the credibility of the United States as a fair sponsor questionable," Mr. Arafat said that Washington had backed down on assurances made to the Palestinians before the talks began in October 1991.

Mr. Arafat insisted that the paper could not be the basis for further talks.

Mr. Arafat said the failure of the American plan to deal with Jerusalem was "a defiance and provocation to Arabs and Muslims."

S. Arabia attempts to mediate in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia is trying to mediate between Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to end their paralyzing six-month-old struggle for power, an official source said Saturday.

Saudi intelligence chief Prince Turki Al Faisal arrived in Pakistan Thursday and has since held lengthy meetings with Mr. Ishaq Khan Mr. Sharif asking them to end their confrontation, said the government official who declined to be named.

"The Saudis are very concerned about what is happening in Pakistan and that this could lead the country to political chaos and anarchy," the source said. "It was this concern that brought Prince Turki to Pakistan."

The president and prime minister were to meet Saturday evening as a result of briefer mediation by Prince Turki and several local religious groups, the source said.

"While remaining within the diplomatic limits, the prince tried to convince the two leaders to sort out their differences mutually."

Several other Muslim countries have voiced concern about Pakistan's simmering political crisis.

"There is certainly pressure from other countries to end this confrontation," the source said. Several Muslim leaders raised their anxieties in talks with Mr. Sharif at this week's meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation in Istanbul, he said.

Mr. Ishaq Khan sacked Mr. Sharif on April 18 on charges of corruption and misuse only to see him reinstated in a landmark supreme court judgment 39 days later.

He has since been working behind the scenes to destabilise Mr. Sharif's government.

Bhutto rejects offer

A war by letter intensified Saturday when opposition leader Benazir Bhutto turned down an invitation from Mr. Sharif to a working dinner to resolve their differences.

"I have time and again stated that a one to one meeting at your place is not possible until your government takes necessary steps to create a democratic atmosphere by ending political and economic victimisation of the opposition," Ms. Bhutto said in a letter to Mr. Sharif.

Mr. Sharif wrote to Ms. Bhutto on Thursday inviting to a working dinner, saying he was ready to discuss most of a list of 10 proposals presented by the opposition leader in a letter to him last Sunday.

In Saturday's letter she repeated her proposals and said she could agree on nothing less than a three-point agenda of a national government, constitutional reforms to slash the power of the president to dismiss parliament, and fresh elections.

3 COLUMN

Diana arrives in Zimbabwe

HARARE (AFP) — Britain's Princess Diana arrived in Zimbabwe Saturday for a four-day visit during which she will meet AIDS patients, lepers and refugees, but caused an immediate stir among British journalists covering the trip by appearing with a new hairstyle. The princess is in Zimbabwe on a working visit as patron of Red Cross Youth, Help the Aged and the Leprosy Mission. But the trip has all attracted some 60 British journalists who chronicle every move of the British royals, and who were excited by her hairstyle as she descended the steps of a scheduled British Airways jet to receive a bouquet of flowers from a group of disabled children. The children sang her a welcome and hundreds of British citizens in this former colony turned out to wave to estranged wife of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne. She was also greeted by Social Welfare Minister John Nkomo and Health Minister Timothy Stamps before leaving for the residence of the British High Commissioner, Peter Dales, in his green Jaguar.

Duchess of York admits she goofed

LONDON (AFP) — The Duchess of York admitted Friday that she had made "huge mistakes" in her personal life which led her into traps like being photographed topless with her financial consultant. In her first long interview on British television since separating from her husband Prince Andrew in March 1992, the Duchess, Sarah Ferguson, talked mainly about her life since the publication in the tabloid press last summer of intimate photos showing her topless with her American financial consultant John Bryan. The duchess, 33, told the ITV network: "It's made me very thoughtful and very much more aware of trying to control my spontaneity a little bit so I don't fall into awful great big pool traps" — in a reference to popular children's book character Winnie the Pooh. "I have made huge mistakes, but I have just got to live and learn."

Last week the royal couple's separation was made official, but the duchess said she was still in contact with Prince Andrew for the sake of their two daughters.

"We speak every day and it is very important we keep that huge friendship," she said. She was devoted to charity. In June she was appointed a "goodwill ambassador" by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Hillary Clinton steals Kabuki show

TOKYO (AP) — In a glittering finale to her visit for the annual summit of the world's seven richest nations, Hillary Rodham Clinton climbed up on stage with some of the biggest stars of Japan's Kabuki theatre. Mrs. Clinton joined famed actor Ennosuke Ichikawa and members of his troupe — still in full costume — for a curtain call after watching the final act of the love story Toriyu Oguri Hangan. "When she came in, the applause was so loud we had to stop the play," Ennosuke said. "She really stole the show." The theatrical setting was a fitting one for the American first lady to conclude her stay. Except for a cameo appearance at a banquet for the G-7 leaders Thursday night by Japan's new and immensely popular crown princess, Mrs. Clinton has clearly been the leading lady of the summit. Her photos have been prominently featured in the nation's newspapers throughout. Japanese television crews are always in row, and crowds of admirers have swarmed around her at each stop. The media attention afforded Mrs. Clinton has even outstripped that given to Kim Campbell, Canada's new prime minister and the only woman G-7 leader.

Mother Teresa hospitalised with stomach trouble

BOMBAY (AFP) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa was admitted to a hospital here with stomach trouble, hospital officials said Saturday. Doctors at the Nanavati Hospital in north Bombay said the condition of the 82-year-old founder of the Missionaries of Charity was stable. Dr. Brian Pinto said Mother Teresa, who has been treated previously for heart problems and underwent heart surgery in 1991, had gastro-enteritis. Dr. Pinto, a cardiologist, said her heart was fine. "Everything is under control, she's fine," he said. "She should be discharged in two days."

UNFPA urges improved living conditions for all

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Sunday marked World Population Day 1993 with a call for increased initiatives to improve living conditions for people all over the world.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UNFPA, in a message issued to mark the occasion, said:

"World Population Day commemorates our awareness of population issues. The day is also an opportunity to join in the worldwide effort to find a balance between population, development and the natural environment."

"Local and national initiatives to inform and give access to couples and individuals to

family planning programmes, improve access to education and health, improve women's status and ensure equality of opportunity can influence population growth and distribution."

"Sustainable development can be achieved if we can agree on common approaches to issues affecting the world. Among the most important of these is population."

"In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development will set the agenda for a concerted effort over the next 20 years. Awareness creation must begin on World Population Day 1993."

"Population issues affect the life of every one of us, whatever country we live in, and



Dr. Nafis Sadik

whatever its rate of population growth or level of development. World Population Day reminds all of us that the future depends on finding the balance between human needs and human numbers."

U.N. posts \$25,000 for Aided

Combined agency despatches

MOGADISHU — The United Nations offered a \$25,000 reward for Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aided on Saturday and warned "the days of Aided are numbered."

A spokesman for General Aided, in hiding since the U.N. issued an arrest warrant on June 17 for the killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers, laughed at the U.N.'s latest "wanted" poster. "No-one would sell Aided for \$25,000. It must be a joke," said Hussein Dimbil, his press secretary.

The U.N. showered Mogadishu with 60,000 leaflets saying that thousands more U.N. troops were on their way to join 20,000 in Somalia to arrest Gen. Aided.

"as an international criminal." "There will be thousands of U.N. soldiers coming in to give U.N. troops in Mogadishu a band — and the result will be to seize the bandit Aided," the leaflets said.

"He will be destroyed and considered as an international criminal... the U.N. will never leave Somalia and never negotiate with the bandit Aided," they said.

Gunmen shot and wounded three French U.N. peacekeeping troops at Mogadishu port Saturday, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Major Leeann Swieczkowski told reporters they were hit by snipers while overseeing the unloading of supplies from a ship. Two were hit in the abdomen and one in the shoulder, she said. Their condition was not immediately known.

It was the second attack on U.N. troops in 24 hours. Four Norwegians were wounded when a mortar bomb exploded in the U.N. compound on Friday night.

The attack, the first to penetrate the compound since the U.N. retreated there after the killing of the Pakistanis on June 5, prompted an order that all soldiers in the complex wear flak jackets on Saturday night.

"Four people were wounded last night. We are taking all necessary precautions," said Maj. Swieczkowski.

The compound groups the U.S. embassy, U.N. headquarters and about 3,000 troops from several nations housed in a defunct university dormitory complex which has suffered nightly sniper fire for about three weeks.

Royal Decree sets off campaign

(Continued from page 1)

districts are maintained, Member of Parliament and former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri recently told the Jordan Times.

If the one-person-one-vote system is introduced without changing the constituencies, a mathematical possibility exists for a major difference to arise in the number of votes that carry each deputy to the House, observers say.

The difficulty in redrawing the voting districts lies in defining the criteria according to which the new precincts would be divided.

Ross upbeat after talks in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

nians rejected it largely on grounds that it referred to territories occupied in 1967 — the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem — as disputed rather than occupied land.

Mr. Musa said Saturday's talks centred on conditions for Palestinians during the interim stage of autonomy. He also stressed that Israel's idea to deal later with the crucial issue of Jerusalem is not acceptable.

"There are new American ideas and there are different ideas from Egypt and the negotiating parties, and that is what we are discussing with the Americans," Mr. Musa said.

"But ignoring the issue of Jerusalem is not possible," he added. "There is hope that there can be

progress in the upcoming talks." Mr. Ross said the United States was "making every effort to make progress and find ways to narrow this gap between the parties."

He avoided going into specifics, saying that "we are in a stage in this process where these kinds of discussions... are going to be the most productive if we keep the details private."

Israeli officials said that a U.S. compromise proposal for breaking the deadlocked talks would make Jerusalem an eventual subject for negotiation, but Mr. Peres said he wants it totally off the agenda for now.

In exchange, he said he was ready to give in to a Palestinian request to delineate a politically autonomous area that would establish the framework for future Palestinian self-determination.

Husseini rejects offer

(Continued from page 1)

after meeting Saturday with George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that if the United States persisted in excluding Jerusalem from the talks and changing the basis of negotiations, "we will then demand the execution of Resolution 181 instead of 242."

Mr. Hussein also rejected the U.S. compromise as a violation of the "terms of reference" under which the peace talks were begun in Madrid, Spain, in October 1991.

"We need to... talk about jurisdiction and Jerusalem, saying that they are occupied territories not disputed lands," Mr. Hussein said. He added: "Then we will be ready to discuss any of the points on the agenda."

Mr. Hussein said that despite the differences, the Palestinian delegation was prepared to attend the next round of Middle East talks, likely to convene in Washington next month.

Mr. Hussein said he had suggested that future multilateral peace talks all be held in one European country at a time.

Mr. Hussein made the suggestion at a meeting of the multilateral steering committee in Moscow Wednesday.

Djibouti claims victory over rebels

DJIBOUTI (AFP) — Government forces regained control of all the positions held in the country by Afar rebels, Defence Minister Ahmad Boulaleh Barreh said Saturday. According to the minister the positions were recaptured during an offensive launched Monday and the government forces had succeeded in "regaining total control of Djibouti territory." Three soldiers died and six others were wounded during the operation, Mr. Ahmad said without saying how many victims there had been from the rebel Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy. Some 34 rebels and two French women, members of the Association for the Support of the Afar People, had been arrested, he added.

Filipina maids flown home from Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — About 400 Filipina domestic workers alleging mistreatment by employers have been flown home in groups over the past two weeks, the Philippines embassy said Saturday. The departure of 101 Filipinas at around midnight Friday on a flight to Manila nearly completed a Kuwaiti-funded repatriation plan for 424 maids who had been at an embassy-run refuge. Consul General Wenceslao Quiroga said by telephone about 20 maids remained. Most were ill and required further medical attention before flying home, he said without elaborating. The maids had fled to the embassy alleging mistreatment including non-payment of wages and rape or other physical abuse. Some had lived at the refuge for a year.

Muslim policeman kills himself after taunts

NEW YORK (AP) — The suicide of transit police officer Mahmoud Tamer took place kilometres away from the subway tunnels where he worked. But authorities are investigating what role the taunts of his co-workers might have played in his death. The body of the 26-year-old Muslim officer was found Friday. Authorities said he disappeared 11 days ago after enduring teasing from co-workers about ties to the World Trade Centre blast because of his religion. Authorities feared this might happen after the last time Tamer was seen: A June 28 incident where another police officer found wandering along subway tracks in Brooklyn and threatening to kill himself. He failed to show up for work that night, setting off an intense hunt which ended with the discovery of his body on the eastern end of Long Island. Tamer apparently drove his van to Montauk State Park, scaled a cliff to reach a ledge and shot himself once in the head, said Transit police spokesman

Al O'Leary. The body had been there for several days, he said.

Mexico rejects U.S. request to accept Chinese

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Mexico has turned down a U.S. request to take in hundreds of Chinese immigrants aboard three ships off the Pacific Coast. The Foreign Ministry said that Mexico could not accept the 659 Chinese because the ships were in international waters and that if the vessels came into Mexican waters, the Chinese would be repatriated. In asking Mexico to accept the Chinese, the U.S. State Department offered to pay the cost of repatriating those determined to be economic refugees. Asked why Mexico and not the United States should take in the Chinese, department spokesman Joe Snyder said: "The ships are located closer to Mexico."

Thousands caught in U.S. nationwide manhunt

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. police have caught nearly 6,000 people in the past two months in a massive operation to round up fugitives throughout the country. "Operation Trident," the 17th of its kind in the past 12 years, targeted 37 U.S. cities over a nine-week period, according to officials who said that though it is slated to end July 1, police will continue to step up their vigilance in more than 20 cities. Cities in Texas, California, Tennessee and Pennsylvania as well as the capital were among those listed. Calling the massive manhunt one of the largest and most successful in U.S. history, associate attorney general Webster Hubbell reported that 5,788 criminals had been caught. Those apprehended included 229 charged or convicted with murder, 398 for sexual assault and 1,744 for drug trafficking. The oldest person was 80 and the youngest 13.

French policeman held in assault probe

PARIS (R) — A French magistrate has taken the rare step of jailing a Paris policeman before trial on possible charges of seriously beating a young Bahraini in a restaurant last month, justice sources said. Officer Francis Catry was jailed Friday after being placed under investigation by a magistrate for beating student Tameen Taqi on June 30. French policemen, frequently accused by the media or in court of brutality against youths and Arab immigrants, are rarely held in pre-trial custody in such cases. Mr. Taqi, a relative of a diplomat at the Bahraini embassy in Paris, had filed a complaint to the police internal investigations division, after being himself earlier placed under investigation on a complaint by Mr. Catry.